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OPINION METER

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Times are tough but they take a back seat on Valentine's Day.

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NATION



President Obama claims clear progress in the nation's economic revival.

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LIFE & STYLE



Lady Gaga sustains an injury that's left her unable to walk.

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2 dead, 13 hurt in Guam stabbing

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man accused of killing two Japanese visitors and injuring a dozen others after crashing his car and stabbing people in a major tourist district in Guam has been arrested and faces multiple charges, police said Wednesday.

Chad Ryan DeSoto, 21, of Tamuning is accused of driving a Toyota Yaris onto a sidewalk and striking seven tourists Tuesday night at an upscale shopping area fronting the Outrigger Guam Resort in Tumon Bay, Guam police spokesman A.J. Balajadia said. DeSoto continued driving on the sidewalk, crashing into the wall of a convenience store. He then left his car and started stabbing people, police said.

DeSoto is charged with two counts of murder, 13 counts of attempted murder

and 13 counts of aggravated assault, Balajadia said. No motive or other details on the investigation were released.

DeSoto was scheduled due to appear before a magistrate judge the Superior Court of Guam on Wednesday to be formally charged.

Japan Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said 14 Japanese tourists were attacked, including two who died. Two of the injured have been released from the hospital after being treated, Suga

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Chad Ryan Desoto, 21, of Tamuning, Guam, left, is in police custody after allegedly driving a Toyota Yaris through a crowd of people in the island's visitor district in Tumon, Guam, on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, crashing into an ABC Store, and stabbing several individuals. Three people are dead and 11 are injured.

Senate: Speedy, fair trial for Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A special committee drafting the rules that will govern a historic impeachment trial said yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will receive a speedy and fair trial at the Senate.

At the same time, Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), who chairs the committee, said the rules will also prohibit the governor from communicating or meeting with senators and vice versa on the issue of impeachment to "respect" the process.

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» Draft rules prohibit contact between Fitial, senators on impeachment

Kilili to Fitial: Step down now

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) reiterated his call to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to step down now for the sake of the CNMI, after the governor was impeached by the 18th House of Representatives on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

"The governor should just step down to save everyone the trouble, rather than go through trial at the Senate," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

See KILILI on Page 4



'FROM DUST THOU ART...'

Fr. Charlito Orobio, OAR, a visiting priest from Cavite City in the Philippines, draws a cross using black soot on a woman's forehead at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan at noon yesterday, Ash Wednesday. Catholic devotees queued in line in parishes throughout the CNMI, a predominantly Catholic community, to receive ash to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fitial reiterates immunity from taxpayer's suit. PAGE 5
Ayuyu request to delay trial OK'd. PAGE 7



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Local



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Customer Ed Baluyan, right, smiles as he places an order for a floral arrangement with Blossoms Floral staffer Beth Egipto yesterday morning. In celebration of Valentine's Day today, Feb. 14, flower shops and restaurants are buzzing with activity despite tough times as couples on island observe the annual holiday associated with romance.

Tough times take backseat to romance on Hearts Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

"I'll order a dozen pink roses," Chris Concepcion says after taking a look at the assorted flowers inside Blossoms Floral's refrigerator.

Beth Egipto, a staffer at the floral shop, smiles as she takes a pen and paper. "Would you like to add balloons or chocolates with that?"

Concepcion ponders the question for a couple of minutes and looks around the shop, checking out its collection of Valentine items.

"I'd like to add white balloons and chocolates and please have them delivered to my wife's office on Valentine's Day," he finally replies.

Concepcion, who has been married to his wife Natsu for almost three years now, plans to make the celebration extra special by bringing her to a fancy local restaurant for dinner.

Times may be tough in the CNMI but rising gas prices and an ongoing impeachment proceeding seem to take a back seat in the last few days leading to Valentine's Day.

Concepcion said it doesn't matter what the economic condition is as Valentine's Day is only celebrated once a year. "You have to spend a little something to make your loved one [feel] special."

Ed Baluyan, who works at J's Restaurant, agrees.

"Doing something special for your loved one helps keep the romance alive even after many years. It helps make your relationship grow stronger," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Baluyan said he had to save little by little so he could afford a floral arrangement for his special someone.

"I chose this particular gift because it lasts longer," he said, pointing to a prepared artificial flower arrangement. "At least, she can still use it to decorate the house even after Valentine's Day."

Besides flowers and boxes of chocolates, another item that's a huge hit during Hearts Day is stuffed toys.

A Kagman resident, who declined to be identified, said he chose a cute white teddy bear for his wife of five years.

"I wanted to give her a stuffed toy because she can see it every day and it will remind her of me," he said.

Every year, he said, he gets his wife a gift for Valentine's

Day. "I'll give this gift to her personally," he added.

According to Blossom Floral's Egipto, love is certainly in the air every February.

"Guys are still sweet," she said. "Even though the floral arrangements they order are not as grand as in the past when the island economy was still at its peak, they still give out Valentine gifts that they can afford—especially flowers."

While most of their patrons are males, Egipto disclosed that they also get the occasional female customers who like to make the men in their lives extra special on Valentine's Day.

"What I've noticed is that we even get customers who are only teens. I think they really save up to make a good impression on girls they're trying to woo," she added.

It's not just the floral shops that are seeing a spike in business. Restaurants and hotels are also tied down with Valentine-related promotions and events.

Das Krishnan, food and beverage manager at Fiesta Resort & Spa, said the romantic holiday spawns special offerings that allow couples to celebrate.

For this year, Krishnan said they've come up with a sit-down dinner for \$100 per couple at Fiesta Resort & Spa's The Claret, which is inclusive of a choice of any bottle of red or white wine or champagne plus a box of chocolates.

He revealed that several reservations have been made already for tonight's dinner. With the island's "last-minute culture," Krishnan said they expect to receive additional reservations within the day. Walk-in couples are also expected, he added.

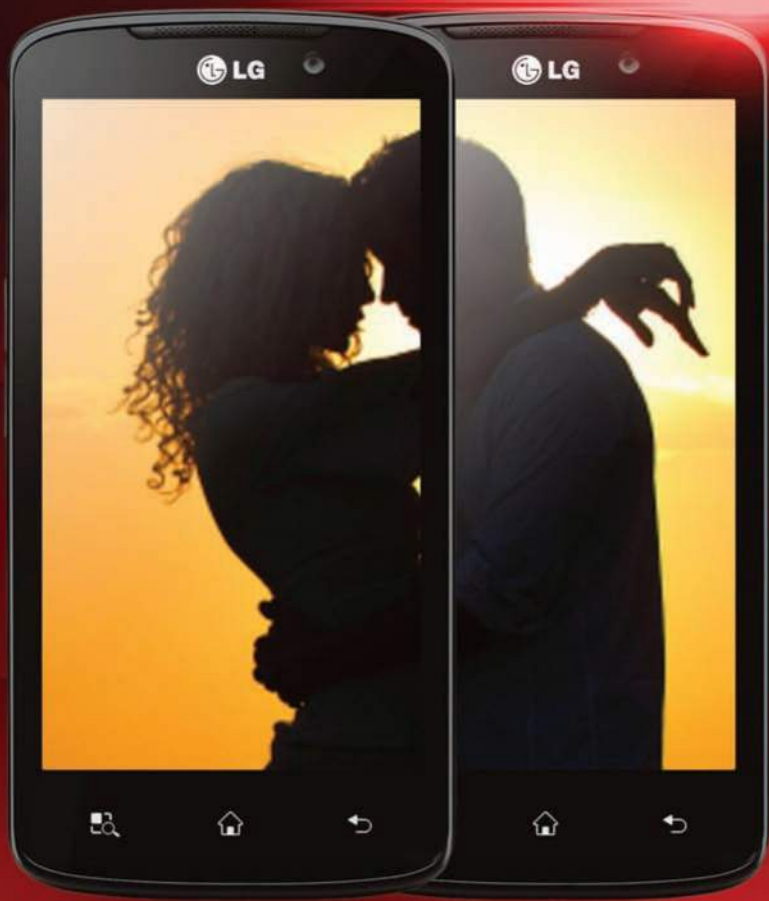
"Economy is definitely not a factor. Whatever state we're in, people still like to go out and spend some precious time during Valentine and other special occasions," said Krishnan.

He noted that there have been phone calls inquiring if couples can bring their children with them to the dinner, and Krishnan said they had to decline those requests.

"We want to give a nice ambiance for couples, so we don't allow kids in the function. With kids around, couples yearning for their personal time won't enjoy their moment," he explained.

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Caution on awarding of hefty, 3-year Marpi landfill contract

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Public Works secretary Anthony Camacho said yesterday that a special committee is now reviewing the proposals that five private firms submitted in response to a request for proposal to operate and maintain the \$10-million Marpi landfill, but Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said that thorough analysis should be done before awarding the hefty contract.

Camacho and Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the House

Search for Fletcher replacement begins

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two top positions at the cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are now vacant following the non-renewal of deputy executive director Alan Fletcher's two-year contract this month.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said that finding a replacement for the deputy executive director may take awhile as the position is still being advertised.

CUC issued yesterday a revised job vacancy announcement for the deputy executive director position, which was opened on Feb. 1. Relocation expenses for the candidate is negotiable, according to the announcement.

The qualified candidate is offered a salary ranging from \$70,000 to \$130,000 per annum under a two-year contract.

Fletcher's employment contract was not renewed by the Fitial administration—an action labeled by some lawmakers as a form of retaliation for not supporting the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Meantime, the executive director post has been vacant since May last year after Abe Utu Malae resigned. He stepped down after the governor's declaration of a CUC state of emergency amid an ongoing protest filed by one of the renewable energy contractors who did not get the deal. Since then, Fletcher has been serving both positions in anticipation of the appointment of a new executive director, a post that needs the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

According to press secretary Angel A. Demapan, Fitial has submitted to the EPA a list of top four candidates for the position for its consideration. *Saipan Tribune* learned that about 30 individuals applied for the position, both from on-island and off-island. The EPA has yet to issue a decision.

Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications committee, said the contract will be for three years.

Deleon Guerrero said his panel also wants to make sure that procurement rules are followed every step of the procurement process.

"We also don't want any political influence on who will be awarded the contract because you are talking about a three-year contract. That's estimated to be over \$1 million," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the evaluation committee should thoroughly look into the qualifications of each company. For example, it is not enough that a firm has experience in landfill operations.

"How extensive is the experience? How many of their staff have training? Where did they get their training or certification and experience? You can say you have the proper equipment such as compactor but are they the functioning well? They also have to comply with DEQ [Division of Environmental Quality] and EPA [U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency] standards," Deleon Guerrero added.

Camacho, in a separate interview, said the RFP has expanded the scope of work to include facility maintenance and pump and leachate operations, among others.

He said the three-member review committee, plus an alternate member, is doing their best to evaluate the proposals received.

"They will also consider whether the DPW can afford the cost. If it is too significant, DPW may revert to equipment operation and maintenance. The landfill won't be privatized. It will still be owned and managed by the government, but there will be contractor for operations and maintenance," said Camacho, whose nomination as DPW secretary will be decided by the Senate on Friday on Tinian.

The five companies that submitted proposals to DPW for the Marpi landfill contract are: RMIC, JG Sablan, Tang's Corp., GPPC and SARS/Success International Corp., the current "emergency" contractor.

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corals

NOAA announces public hearings to be held for the proposed rule to list 66 coral species as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the date and time provided:

Guam Hilton, Hagatna
202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913
February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Multipurpose Room on Beach Road, Susupe
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
February 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Fleming Hotel, Tinian
P.O. Box 68 Tinian, MP 96952
February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Mayor's Office, Rota
Tatachog Road, Rota, CNMI 96951
February 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

Each hearing will include an initial town hall style meeting for the public to review materials and ask questions, followed by a formal hearing to submit public testimony. The full text of the proposed rule and supplemental documents can be found at www.regulations.gov or at www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html#supplemental_docs

For a full schedule of the public hearings please visit:
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US govt wants 10-month prison term for Miah

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government wants Mohammed Jahangir Miah to be slapped with a 10-month prison term for his role in a conspiracy to unlawfully produce driver's licenses.

In court papers filed Tuesday, assistant U.S. attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero said the 10-month sentence is appropriated based on Miah's lack of acceptance and responsibility and his obstruction of justice.

Leon Guerrero said a defendant who engages in new criminal conduct prior to sentencing should not be given the benefit of acceptance of responsibility.

In this case, Leon Guerrero cited U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona's determination on Sept. 20, 2012, that Miah breached his plea agreement for his criminal conduct related to another criminal case.

The prosecutor said Miah's criminal conduct occurred while awaiting sentencing.

"As a result, Miah should not be given the two-level decrease for acceptance of responsibility," he said.

In this case, Leon Guerrero said, Miah also lied to a U.S. probation officer during his initial interview.

"Miah's failure to be forthright is also indicative of his failure to fully accept responsibility for his criminal actions," the prosecutor said.

Miah pleaded guilty in August 2011. His sentencing hearing was postponed several times for various reasons.

In July 2012, the U.S. District Court for the NMI acquitted Miah for lack of corroborating evidence in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks.

In October 2012, police arrested Miah for allegedly receiving stolen items belonging to William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Superior Court Associate Judge

Perry B. Inos, however, dismissed the charges after finding no probable cause to warrant the filing of the case.

Early last month, police arrested

Miah again for allegedly receiving a stolen video camera.

It turned out, however, that the camera belonged to the police and was

never stolen after all.

As a result, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo dismissed the case.

Bid to modify bail rejected in case of man who beat up teen

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday rejected a bid to modify the \$25,000 cash bail filed by one of two men who allegedly assaulted a teenager. The victim later died after being run over by two cars.

Camacho ruled that he is not convinced that Herman Selepeo Fitial will be able to control his propensity for violence and comply with the court's orders and conditions of pre-trial release.

Camacho expressed concern about the randomness and brutality of the attack.

"The victim—outnumbered, running away, so afraid for his life that he would run into oncoming traffic, beaten into submission and left on the road seriously injured and eventually dying

from his wounds—all for absolutely nothing!" the judge said.

At the hearing, Fitial, through counsel Colin Thompson, offered Fitial's wife as third-party custodian in addition to a property bond in lieu of the \$25,000 cash bail.

Both the defendant and the wife are unemployed. To feed his family, Fitial goes fishing everyday. The wife testified that, on the night of the incident, Fitial did not listen to her because he had been drinking alcohol.

In rejecting bail modification, Camacho said he is not convinced that spousal supervision will be enough to control the suspect.

Also, Camacho said, the proposed location of where Fitial will live is in close to the alleged crime scene. The judge said several witnesses currently

work at the gas station and stores where this alleged crime happen.

It is alleged that Fitial, 34, and co-defendant Felix Kileleman Jr., 19, where at a store when a fight broke out with the alleged victim, 19-year-old Jefferson Kiauol Keju, in the evening of Jan. 1, 2013 in central Garapan.

At some point, Fitial and his nephew, Kileleman, allegedly chased Keju into the highway where they beat him up.

Lying on the highway, Keju was struck by two cars. He eventually died.

Fitial and Kileleman fled the scene and were later arrested. The driver of a van that first struck the victim also fled, while the operator of the second vehicle stopped and assisted the victim.

The driver of the van was later identified as Woo Hyun Kim, a 31-year-old male who remains a fugitive.

KILILI

From Page 1

The governor has been preparing his legal defense team for the impending trial at the Senate wherein senators will decide whether or not to convict him and remove him from office.

If at least six of the nine-member Senate convict him on at least one of the 18 charges, he will be removed from office and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will become governor.

"This is before the Legislature. I trust that they will do the right thing," Sablan added.

The delegate made the same call to the governor to "resign now" a day after the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, when

the governor's candidates were almost wiped out and pro-impeachment candidates won most House seats.

At the time, the governor said with the election now behind, "it is time for us to put politics aside and put the CNMI first."

He has continued to call on lawmakers to work with him on issues such as turning the economy around and helping critical agencies such as the hospital, the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Other lawmakers said yesterday the governor should know by now what to do.

Fitial, 68, is the first governor in the CNMI and any other U.S. insular area to be impeached.

SENATE

From Page 1

"We would like to give the governor a speedy and fair trial," Torres told reporters yesterday after emerging from a closed-door meeting with committee members Sens. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), along with Senate legal counsels.

He, however, said the governor and senators can communicate on all other matters related to their responsibilities as elected CNMI leaders.

The House of Representatives impeached the governor on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty on Monday and Tuesday.

Fitial, president of the Republican Party, is the first impeached governor in the CNMI or any U.S. insular area.

A trial at the Senate will determine whether the governor will be convicted and removed from the post he has held for seven years so far.

During the trial, senators will serve as judges and an active or retired justice or judge will serve as facilitator or moderator.

Some House members will serve as "house managers" or prosecutor, while the governor will have his own legal defense team. He will not be represented by the Office of the Attorney General.

Torres said the committee intends to finalize the impeachment trial rules by Friday, so that the full Senate can consider and adopt it during its Friday session on Tinian. The committee has agreed that Torres will be the spokesperson for matters related to the rules.

Notification to governor

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is expected to soon formally notify the governor of the charges and give him time to respond to these allegations or articles of impeachment.

As of yesterday, neither Hofschneider nor Torres could say whether the time allotted the governor to respond to the allegations is one week or two weeks, as well as the start date for the impeachment trial.

The trial is not expected to drag on for months.

Torres said that giving the governor a "speedy and fair" trial means the trial will commence within two to three weeks from the time the governor receives the official letter from the Senate

president.

He said this also gives senators and other parties involved ample time to review some 2,000 pages of documents from the prosecution and the response from the governor.

Senate's court

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) signed off on the official letter transmitting the duly-adopted House impeachment resolution to the Senate yesterday morning.

Senate clerk Dolores Bermudes received the House transmittal letter at 11am yesterday, officially moving the impeachment process to the Senate.

Torres said because this is an unprecedented trial in the CNMI, the committee is carefully drafting and reviewing the rules they will propose to the full Senate.

"We are trying to be as fair as we can and set also guidelines and a precedent for the next generation. We hope we never go through this. It's really not a fun procedure. It's never a win-win situation if you're put in this place but we have to do the right thing and I believe the Senate will do the right thing. And we're trying to cover as much angle as we can to address this issue," he said.

He said the committee would recommend that the governor be present during the trial.

"In the Senate, our part here is to be fair and impartial. And what the senators will be hearing during the trial is evidence that will be presented by both sides," he said.

Torres said all senators will be part of the impeachment trial and allowed to cast their vote.

"If there is a specific conflict on specific issues then we would like to hear that conflict and address it accordingly," he added.

Of the nine senators, one is currently behind bars awaiting trial, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

What to expect

Torres said the Senate intends to write to Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro to ask him whether there are justices or judges that can help facilitate the impeachment trial. If there are, the Senate would request a list of at least three names.

The Senate will also ask retired justices and judges if they would be willing to serve.

Torres said from the names they will gather from the Judiciary and retirees, the Senate will select one.

At the trial, both the prosecution and defendant will be allotted time for their opening statements.

Both sides will also be heard on each of the 18 articles of impeachment.

The impeachment trial will be aired live on Channel 60 or Channel 14 or both.

"We will be fair and impartial," Torres said when asked for a public message at this time.

The House speaker earlier said it is going to be an "uphill battle" in the Senate. Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the impeachment resolution and is expected to be among the "house managers" or prosecution team members during the Senate trial. He said they will prepare "vigorously" and "meticulously."

In the United States and its territories such as the CNMI, impeachment is the Legislature's expressed power that allows for formal charges against a civil officer of government for crimes committed in office; in this case, the governor.

The actual trial on the charges against Fitial, and his subsequent removal on conviction on those charges, is separate from the act of impeachment itself.

Charges

Fitial, 68, was impeached on Monday on 13 charges related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate to give him a massage at his private residence in the wee hours of the morning in January 2010, a few days before he was to take his oath of office for a second term, as well as the signing of a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

He was also impeached on charges related to the award of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth almost \$400,000.

The governor was also impeached on charges related to his failure to remove a former attorney general for violation of federal and local election laws, and conspiring with others to shield the same former AG, now a fugitive from justice, from being served a penal summons.

On Tuesday, he was impeached on five remaining charges of neglect of duty for failure to timely appoint officials for Senate consideration including a Supreme Court justice, commissioners, and department heads.

STABBING

From Page 1

said.

Japanese media reported the dead were two women aged 28 and 82 and the survivors included an 8-month-old baby.

An official with Japanese travel operator H.I.S. Co. said eight of its customers were injured in the attack—including some with broken bones—but none were killed.

The wreck and alleged knife attack among high-end boutiques and hotels in Tumon Bay's Pleasure Island district sent frightened hotel guests and others fleeing for safety.

A woman at a nearby café with friends told the *Pacific Daily News* she saw the car plow through the driveway and into a convenience store at the resort. Ashley Quichocho, 18, of Dededo said the driver got out, ran up to bystanders and began stabbing them.

"He started stabbing someone, and I started freaking out," Quichocho said. "He was just running back and forth stabbing people."

Quichocho said she ran to the second floor of the hotel with other guests to escape.

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo issued a statement addressed to "the people of Japan" saying the perpetrator would be prosecuted "to the fullest extent of the law." Calvo said he is committed to ensuring the safety of visitors to Guam and would increase the police presence

in the visitor district.

"This was an isolated incident—something that just doesn't happen in our community," Calvo said. "We are shocked, we are grieving with the families, and we extend our deepest condolences to those hurt."

Guam, U.S. territory and tropical island just 1,500 miles or three hours south of Tokyo by airplane, is heavily dependent on tourism—particularly from Japan—for its economy. It's well known for scuba diving, white beaches and historic World War II battle sites.

Japanese accounted for 73 percent of the 1.1 million visitors to Guam in the 2011 fiscal year, according to Guam Visitors Bureau data. South Koreans were 13 percent followed by 4 percent from Taiwan.

Mark Baldyga, Guam Visitors Bureau chairman, stressed the incident was unusual.

"Guam has long been considered as one of the safest tourist destinations in the region and it remains so today," he said in a statement. "U.S. federal immigration and customs protect our borders, and we dedicate substantial resources to ensuring that Guam remains a warm, friendly and completely safe holiday destination."

Guam, which has a population of about 180,000 and is just 30 miles long, is home to major U.S. naval and air bases. The U.S. also has plans to move several thousand Marines to Guam from the southern Japanese island of Okinawa.

Fitial maintains he is immune from taxpayer's suit vs PPA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Reiterating his immunity from a lawsuit for signing a \$190.8-million power purchase agreement,

SHEFA eyes suspending its incentive scholarship

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is looking at suspending the scholarship's incentive program, according to board vice chair Jose Mafnas, who said the proposal will be formally presented to the full board on Friday.

The incentive program is one of the three scholarships offered by SHEFA. The other two are the grant-in-aid and the field of study program.

According to Mafnas, he will propose the program's suspension for freshmen and sophomores only. If approved, the new policy will take effect in the fall 2013 semester.

Saipan Tribune learned that off-island recipients will be the ones most affected by this policy change.

It was learned that the proposed suspension of the incentive program is expected to re-

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial cited a CNMI Supreme Court ruling in a previous taxpayer action filed against then-governor Froilan Tenorio, one of Fitial's staunchest defenders in the House's im-

sult in 15 to 20 percent savings for SHEFA.

Mafnas said the proposed suspension is due to the declining number of poker machines that renew licenses with the government. As of January this year, Saipan had only about 500 licensed poker machines and the number continues to decrease, Mafnas said. Just last week, he said the licenses of four machines were not renewed.

SHEFA's budget is sourced from poker revenues and each fiscal year, the agency is allocated \$3.1 million, of which \$100,000 is for office operation. The rest goes to the scholarship programs.

The SHEFA board started reducing scholars' awards in spring 2011 due to the dwindling financial state of the government. Last year, the board also suspended the field-of-study grant to freshmen and sophomore scholars for the same reasons.

Pope's resignation 'an act of humility'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI is "an act of humility and a true example of humble leadership," according to Rev. Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez.

Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said the diocese is grateful for Pope Benedict XVI's leadership.

"He will be remembered as a great teacher, a gifted scholar, and a holy servant of the Lord," Jimenez said in an email response to Saipan Tribune.

The Vatican announced on Monday that the 85-year-old Roman Catholic pontiff will resign on Feb. 28 due to deteriorating health brought by old age—becoming the first pope to do so in about 600 years.

Born Joseph Alois Ratzinger, he became Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005 after the death of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict XVI's resignation was a surprise for many Catholics, including those in the CNMI, which is predominantly Catholic, according to Jimenez.

"However, I also understand that this decision is made after a period of deep and serious discernment, and in the end, the Holy Father chose what is for the greater good of the Church,"

Jimenez said.

"We trust that the Church operates through the guidance of the Holy Spirit," he added.

Jimenez said he does not know if the pope's resignation will have any bearing on the selection of a new bishop for the CNMI.

"What I do know is that only the Holy Father can appoint bishops," said Jimenez. "We need to pray harder and continue to wait patiently."

The Northern Marianas has not had a bishop for almost four years since the resignation of Bishop Tomas Camacho, which became official in April 2009.

Camacho stepped down as the highest ranking prelate in the CNMI when he turned 75 on Sept. 18, 2008, as required by Canon Law.

Jimenez said in an earlier interview that he met with Pope Benedict XVI in December 2011, during which he was asked by the Holy Father to tell the community "not to lose hope" and for the priests in the CNMI to continue their pastoral work while waiting for a new bishop.

He urged the Catholic faithful in the Commonwealth to pray for Pope Benedict XVI. "As we thank Pope Benedict XVI, we also pray for the next pontiff of the Catholic Church."

peachment proceedings.

Fitial, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, asked the Superior Court to dismiss the three claims against him in his individual capacity because he is entitled to qualified immunity on these counts.

In documents filed last week in Superior Court, Lochabay cited the taxpayer action filed against Tenorio by attorney Jeanne H. Rayphand in 1994. In that case, Rayphand accused Tenorio of illegal reprogramming and expenditure of funds. She alleged that Tenorio was individually liable for the illegal expenditure of public funds during a period in which the Legislature had failed to pass a budget, requiring the continued funding of government opera-

tions at the level of the last budget passed.

Rayphand asserted 12 causes of action against Tenorio, in connection with government expenditures that included the purchase of two luxury cars worth \$91,000—a Lincoln Town Car and a Cadillac—intended for the use of the governor and his lieutenant governor.

In 2003, the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that Tenorio has qualified immunity from the lawsuit.

In Rayphand's case, Lochabay said the court ruled that qualified immunity is available to officials "who err in their duties so long as the mistake is one that a 'reasonable' officer could have made." Lochabay said the court held that Tenorio was en-

titled to qualified immunity on most counts.

Of the remainder, Lochabay said, three counts were found to be non-justiciable political questions, one count had been omitted, one count was moot, and one requested attorney's fees.

"The only count on which Governor Tenorio's request for qualified immunity was denied was for overspending the budget, on which count the court held that the law was clearly established," Lochabay said.

He pointed out that, since the power purchase agreement and related agreements had the blessing of then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Fitial "did not at any time violate clearly established law of which a reasonable person would have

known and is entitled to qualified immunity."

The Senate and Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and then representative and now Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) are suing Fitial, Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC over the \$190.8-million PPA.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare the 25-year PPA "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

Brabu steps up to the plate for MMAC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center co-owner and manager Theodore "Ted" Parker, third left, hands the \$1,000 check donation to 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee members on Feb. 7. From left to right, luminary committee co-chair Krizia Mendoza, overall committee chair Manny Borja, Parker, Brabu Pharmacy's Raena Celis, public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion, and accounting and registration committee co-chair Atdao Rosario.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center is supporting the annual Marianas March Against Cancer for the first time.

Co-owner and manager Theodore R. Parker presented a \$1,000 check to 2013 MMAC

Committee overall chair Manny Borja, luminary committee co-chair Krizia Mendoza, public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion, and accounting and registration committee co-chair Atdao Rosario during a ceremony on Feb. 7.

The donation makes Brabu Pharmacy a major sponsor for this year's event, slated for April 26 to 27 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

Major sponsorship is bestowed on companies, organizations or individuals that donate \$1,000 to \$2,999 in cash, products/services.

Parker said they're pleased to support the cause this year and the donation is one of their ways to give back to the community.

"The community has been very generous in supporting us and we like to give back. Over the last couple of years, we've formed a very good relationship with Commonwealth Cancer Association. The timing was right this year," he said.

While the corporate donation is a first, Parker disclosed that he has been a long-time supporter of the MMAC, CCA's signature annual fundraiser, on a personal level.

"I support it through luminaries," said Parker, referring to the lit candles placed inside white

bags bearing the names of family members touched by cancer. "I have several family members [who] have passed away because of cancer, including my mother and grandmother."

He noted, though, that Brabu Pharmacy will not have a participating team this year "but that doesn't necessarily mean we won't have one next year."

He encouraged the community to support the Marianas March, to remember not just those who have passed away due to cancer but especially those who have survived the fatal disease.

"I think it's a great event and it does a lot of wonders for the community. Supporting our survivors is very important. Let us show to them the strength of the entire community," said Parker.

Overall committee chair Borja expressed appreciation for Brabu Pharmacy's support in the fight against cancer.

"Their donation will be used for cancer awareness programs and cancer patient support services in the CNMI so we are grateful for their contribution to this great cause," he said.

To sponsor or for more information about MMAC, contact Borja at 989-1987 or email emanuel.borja@gmail.com, visit www.ccamarianas.org or email cca@ccamarianas.org.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our *kumaire* Josephine R. Agulto. May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. Enjoy your special day! Greetings coming out from Mel, Eugene, and kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MARIANAS CUP BEACH VOLLEYBALL FESTIVAL 2013

FEBRUARY 13 TO MARCH 3RD

The longest running beach volleyball event in Micronesia
www.nmivolleyball.org



BEACH VOLLEYBALL ∞ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SAIPAN					
■ FREE Kids Clinic w/the Pro Players (Ages 8-25) ■ REGISTRATION for Junior Cup	REGISTRATION for Junior Cup	■ REGISTRATION for Junior Cup (reg closes 6:00pm) ■ Sunset Tourney Championship ■ Happy Hour w/Pro Players	■ Junior Cup Pool Play (2-person) ■ 11:30am Pro Player Exhibition Matches ■ No late entries accepted	■ Junior Cup Double Elimination ■ based on Saturday pool play ■ No new entries	■ Kids Cup
Wednesday February 13 4:30 – 6:30pm FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)	Thursday February 14 4:00 – 6:00pm MHS Gym at MISO Games	Friday February 15 4:00 – 7:00pm	Saturday February 16 8:30a – 5:00p	Sunday February 17 8:30a – 5:00p	Sunday March 3 8:30a – 5:00p
FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)					
All events are open to the Public ∞ No membership required					

GUAM					
■ FREE Kids Clinic w/the Pro Players (Ages 8-25) ■ REGISTRATION for Pro Am Cup	REGISTRATION for Pro Am Cup	■ 6:00p Pro Player Exhibition Matches ■ Pro Raffle Draw (during exhibition) ■ REGISTRATION for Pro Am Cup (reg closes 5:30pm)	■ ProAm Cup Pool Play ■ No late entries accepted	■ ProAm Cup Double Elimination ■ based on Saturday pool play ■ No new entries	■ Kids Cup
Wednesday February 20 4:00 – 6:00pm Gun Beach, Tumon	Thursday February 21 ALL DAY ST JOHN'S GYM	Friday February 22 3:00 – 9:00pm	Saturday February 23 8:30a – 6:00p	Sunday February 24 8:30a – 6:00p	Sunday March 3 8:30a – 5:00p
Guam Beach Bar – Gun Beach, Tumon					

EVENT SPONSORS

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FREE KIDS CLINICS

- No registration required
- Sign in on arrival
- Saipan & Guam

JUNIOR CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required
- Registration closes Friday 2/15 6pm
- Saipan only

PRO AM CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required for under 16 years old
- Guam only

KIDS CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required
- Registration closes 3/1

All forms available from PE teachers or download at www.nmivolleyball.org

Email Inquiries to nmivolleyball@gmail.com

Huge FUNdraising raffle draw at both the Junior Cup and the Pro Am — tickets only \$1 each

Ayuyu request to delay trial OK'd

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday the request of the prosecution and Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) to delay the latter's jury trial.

Manglona vacated the current jury trial scheduled for Feb. 19, 2013, and reset it to March 25, 2013, at 9am.

There will be a pretrial conference on March 4. Deadline of pretrial motions is Feb. 27. Motions will be heard on March 5.

Ayuyu appeared with counsel, Joaquin DLG. Torres. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe repre-

sented the U.S. government.

After the hearing, Manglona remanded the Rota senator into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Torres informed the court that they need additional time to prepare for trial, in particular to review 14 grand jury transcripts that the prosecution recently made available.

The first indictment charged Ayuyu and Ryan James Inos Manglona with conspiracy to violate the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act, one count of violating the Endangered Species Act, and one count of vio-

lating the Lacey Act.

The indictment alleged that on Oct. 17, 2010, Ayuyu and Ryan Manglona conspired to conceal eight dead Mariana fruit bats (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*) beneath 40 lbs of lemon inside a cardboard box and attempt to transport the box to Saipan on a Freedom Air flight.

A separate indictment charges Ryan Manglona of lying to a grand jury and obstruction of justice.

The second indictment charges Ayuyu with conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstructing an official proceeding, tampering with a witness, suborning perjury, attempting to prevent testimony of a witness, obstructing the due administration of justice, and attempting to destroy or remove seized property.

A second indictment alleges that Ayuyu instructed Ryan Manglona on Oct. 17, 2010, to deliver a cardboard box containing Mariana fruit bats to the Rota Airport in advance of the senator's flight to Saipan.

The two cases will be tried jointly.

Ryan Manglona worked for the Rota Mayor's Office and was also assigned to perform duties on behalf of the Rota Legislative Delegation. He subsequently pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice.

Ayuyu, 48, pleaded not guilty to all charges. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Manta Band readies comeback at Tumon Bay Music Festival

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Musical director William DeWitt disclosed yesterday that the Manta Ray Band is all set for its comeback at the upcoming Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

"We are definitely returning for our fourth visit to the TBMF. I am very optimistic about this year's Manta Band. They have been working hard musically (as always) and are preparing to compete not just in the high school wind ensemble category, but in the jazz, rock, small ensemble, and solo divisions as well," said DeWitt.

The weeklong festival is slated from Feb. 28 to March 9.

DeWitt said all of band members will be participating in either the Tumon Bay International Wind Ensemble under the direction of Maestro Atsushi Yamashita and/or the All-Island High School Honor Band under the direction of University of Guam's professor of music, Dr. Jeffrey Meyer.

As far as fundraising is concerned, he said the group is nearing its goal of raising some \$30,000 for the 10-day excursion. DeWitt shared that many

community members and some dedicated parents and PTA members have joined forces to get them closer to making the trip a reality.

The group's final big "push" is this weekend's golf tournament at Coral Ocean Point. Entry fee is \$80. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Xclusive Golf Association is spearheading this event for the Manta Ray Band. Top three prizes of \$200, \$150, and \$100 will be given away. A raffle and banquet will follow.

"Currently, we are budgeting almost \$8,000 for hotel costs, \$13,000 plus for airfare, and \$4,000 to \$5,000 for ground transportation/fuel, miscellaneous costs including festival entry fees (approximately \$500), clinicians honorariums (\$200), insurance (\$500), certain meals, and other emergency expenses. Our best estimates at this point leave us only about \$3,000 short of our goals. We will make it somehow!" said DeWitt.

He said that 47 students will join this year's festival.

This year marks the 11th anniversary of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Band program, which coincides with the founding of the school in 2002.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WSR Family Fun Night on Friday

The William S. Reyes Elementary School PTSA will be hosting a Family Fun Night on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, from 4:30pm to 9pm at the WSR campus in Chalan Kanoa. Come join us for a great night with family and friends. There will be lots of good food and wonderful entertainment. (*PR*)

DPL suspends accepting grazing permit applications on Saipan

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications for agricultural and grazing permits for subsistence purposes on public land, effective Feb. 18, 2013. This moratorium affects only those applying for AGPs on the island of Saipan. (*DPL*)

Public library offer rummage sale space

To coincide with the monthly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Book Sale, the library will be providing space for a rummage/parking lot sale on Feb. 23, 2013, from 7:30am to 1pm. The cost is \$25 for a 10x20 space. Reserve a slot as space is limited. All proceeds collected will be used for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and JKPL anniversary celebration. (*JKPL*)

CCA board meeting on Feb. 19

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its board of directors meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes election of officers, reports and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (*CCA*)



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NMI Department of Labor Employment Services @ 664-3190

**Next class begins
Thursday, February 21
6:00 PM
Marianas Business Plaza
Room 604 (6th floor)
SPACE IS LIMITED**

The Bridge Project @ 287-7037.

Or Sign up on our website

<http://bridge.marianas.us>

The Bridge Project is funded through a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs and the NMI Department of Commerce

EMO warns of rough seas until Friday

The Emergency Management Office warned the public yesterday of rough seas and

winds that are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft.

“Fresh to strong trade winds will continue the next several days. Combined seas of around 10 feet...will build to between 11 and 12 feet Wednesday,” the EMO advisory states.

The small craft advisory re-

mains in effect until 8pm Friday.

A small craft advisory means that seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 to 33 knots are expected to produce hazardous conditions.

Sustained winds of 15 to 25 knots are expected through Friday. Combined seas of 10 feet are expected to build to between

11 and 12 feet Wednesday through Friday.

EMO is advising the public, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions. “If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.” (EMO)

Help sent from near and far: Our thanks to Saipan

Over the past few weeks, thousands of Red Cross volunteers from near and far have converged on New Jersey and New York to provide help and hope to families affected by Superstorm Sandy. Few have traveled as far as Joseph Jetnil of the Northern Mariana Islands Red Cross Chapter. Home for Jetnil is the Pacific island of Saipan, a U.S. territory located 120 miles north of Guam.

Jetnil joined the Red Cross after retiring. “Volunteering is better than fishing,” he said, adding, “I decided I had been lucky in life and should give back.”

Jetnil is a jack of all disaster-

trades, and has worked in logistics, distribution, and warehousing since arriving in New Jersey.

Jetnil has been working at the Red Cross warehouse in Somerset, helping coordinate efforts to move relief items such as clean up kits, shovels, rakes, buckets, bleach, and personal care products into areas devastated by Superstorm Sandy

in New Jersey.

“Joseph’s flexibility and vast knowledge of disaster op-

erations have made him a vital component of the Red Cross’ response to Sandy in New Jersey,” said Marita Wenner, director of Red Cross disaster operations for New Jersey relief efforts.

This work adds to his previous experiences responding to hurricanes in North Carolina and flash floods in Kansas and Missouri. Volunteers like Jetnil, with their extensive training and breadth and depth of knowledge, form the backbone of the Red Cross’ response to disasters across the country and around the world. (ARC)



Jetnil

Snacking away? Risk tooth decay!



By CRYSTAL EDMISTER D.D.S.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Throughout my years of practice, I can tell by looking at a patient’s x-rays if they snack or sip drinks all day long. You know what I can see? Cavities! Yes, snacking and sipping will cause cavities! Even if they are “healthy” snacks!

This is very evident in young children who will end up with a mouth full of cavities, all because their guardians can’t have them not snack. What I recommend to these parents is to have their child eat three large meals per day: breakfast, lunch and dinner. No snacks. Only drink water between meals. IF their child wants juice or a cookie, OK, but it is only to be eaten with their meal. Parents should feed their child balanced meals with a rainbow of colorful foods on their plate. When children eat whole, unprocessed foods they will feel “fuller” for longer.

Did you know that the average teenage boy consumes 81 gallons of soda each year?

Wow! That’s 1.7 gallons per week! Yuck. Not only are the sugar and phosphoric acid terrible for your teeth, it’s also terrible for your stomach and body. Make the healthy choice and drink water instead. Sip on anything except water throughout the day and you risk tooth decay. Coffee, tea, juice, milk, etc. will all rot your teeth away. Adults will get cavities between their teeth (where the floss goes) from this habit of sipping all day long. Again, I recommend pure water. This will be better for your mind and body as well!

Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits. Get them into the routine of visiting their dentist twice a year. Make sure your child is brushing with a fluoridated toothpaste and is drinking fluoridated water. However, brushing and flossing alone is not the answer. You will still get cavities if you snack. So, give your teeth a break between meals to strengthen themselves against cavities! Drink water, water, water and no snacks!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

Feb. 14, 2000

INS rejects visa waiver for Filipino accountants
The Immigration and Naturalization Service has rejected a request from the Philippine Consulate here for a Guam-only, single entry visa waiver for Filipino accountants taking the CPA certifying board examination in the territory in May. This was learned from Consul Julia Heidemann who said Saturday her office will coordinate with Capital Hill for possible arrangements that can be made to allow Filipino accountants in the CNMI take the board examination in May. According to Heidemann, INS officials cited existing policies relating to the granting of U.S. visa to foreign nationals that require application and processing on their point of origin.

Govt eyes equipment for water testing
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he favors acquiring an equipment for chemical testing for the Division of Environmental Quality to help lower the cost of the required water testing. Mr. Tenorio has assured the business sector that the CNMI government will find ways to cut cost and still implement the needed requirement to protect public health by ensuring that their water is analyzed for microbiological and chemical contaminants. The business sector has asked the government to look for various ways to reduce the financial burden as most revenues have declined as a result of slowdown in the island’s tourism economy.

Feb. 14, 2001

Bill to pardon convicts awaits governor’s nod
Granting more elbow room for members of the Board of Parole and a full capacity of the governor to pardon and exonerate a convicted felon, the House of Representatives yesterday approved amendments to the Crimes and Criminal Procedures under the Commonwealth Code. The amendments sought by Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz through Senate Bill 12-102 was aimed at rectifying certain provisions that are seen to hamper the ability of the parole board to discharge mandates stipulated in the existing statutes. The bill now heads to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for approval following deliberations on the House of Representatives and a consensus from the Senate.

Resolution honors Attao
A resolution has been introduced in the House of Representatives commending Rep. Jesus T. Attao for having authored the most number of bills and having the most number of legislation enacted into law. Attao has filed 361 bills in all of his terms as congressman; 51 of which had been signed into law. He topped the list of congressmen from the First to the Twelfth CNMI House of Representatives who have had the most number of bills filed and the most number of enacted legislation. According to House Resolution 12-120 introduced by Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan, Attao should be conferred the title “Prime Lawmaker” for his preeminent role in the creation of Commonwealth laws.

Feb. 14, 2002

Govt may face class-action suit
Government workers who would be stripped of their civil service status once Gov. Juan N. Babauta signs Senate Bill 13-15 into law can file a class-action suit against the CNMI government for removing from them their rights as civil-service protected employees. Personnel Director Norbert Sablan, who left his post yesterday, said he had pointed this out in his efforts to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 13-15, as it would make the government vulnerable to a costly and overdrawn legal battle that could possibly cost the government millions. “At the same time, “they can gather together as a group and voice their concern to the government that this is not fair. This is not appropriate. This is irresponsible behavior on the part of both the Legislature and the Governor. And the public should not condone that. This is no way to run a democratic government,” said Sablan.

PCB treatment resumes but not without EPA restrictions
The US Environmental Protection Agency has imposed certain restrictions on the treatment of PCB-contaminated soil in Tanapag, allegedly slowing down the process that resumed this week. Michelle Rogow, of EPA Region IX, said the operation by the ITD machine was allowed to continue at a much lower rate, while the treatment is being considered for final approval. From the previous 16 tons of soil treated per hour, the maximum amount of soil that can be treated in a given hour now is 13 tons.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Gloria M. Khan, Petitioner,

vs.

Ashiku Khan, Respondent.

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0220

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 505464, Saipan, MP 96950**, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/Clerk of Court

GUN AND MOON'S CORPORATION A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION

Pursuant to 4 C.M.C. § 4603, Gun & Moon's Corporation, A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Corporation, hereby submits these articles of Dissolution, setting forth the following information requires by statute:

1. Name of Corporation:
GUN & MOON'S CORPORATION

2. Date Dissolution authorized:
August 23, 2012

3. The dissolution was approved by the shareholders.
Number of votes entitled to cast votes:
3000 SHARES TOTAL
3000 SHARES VOTED IN FAVOR OF DISSOLUTION

4. Effective date of dissolution:
August 24, 2012

Dated this 24th day of August 2012.

GUN & MOON'S CORPORATION A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

/s/ KIM, MI YOUNG CHAE
PRESIDENT/SHAREHOLDER

/s/MOON, DONG II
SHAREHOLDER

/s/ CHUNG, YOO KI
SHAREHOLDER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Special Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation will hold a special meeting beginning Friday, February 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Call to the Audience

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

A. CEO Report – FY 2012 Accomplishments, PHS Update, & FY 2013 Performance Plan

B. COO Report – Activities Report (To be included: Details re New Hires and Salary Increases) & FY 2013 Performance Plan.

C. CFO Report – Activities Report (To be included: FY 2013 Monthly Financial Statements; MPLT Loan; EHR Inventive; FY 2013 REVENUE & EXPENDITURE PROJECTION; FY 2013 CHCC Budget; Employee Housing; Lump Sum Payment of Annual Leave for Retired & Separated Employees; Vendor Payments Update, Accounts Payables & FY 2013 Performance Plan.

D. Director of Hospital Services Report – CMS Citation Update; FY 2012 Accomplishments; 1st Qtr Activities Report & FY 2013 Performance Plan

E. Director of Nursing Report – FY 2012 Accomplishment, 1st Qtr Activities Report & FY 2013 Performance Plan

F. Director of Public Health Report – FY 2012 Accomplishment (details on NCD) & FY 2013 Performance Plan

G. DMA Report – Activities Report & FY 2013 Performance Plan

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Special Committee Report on CEO Evaluation

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

• CEO Evaluation

IX. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

X. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Next Meeting

B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

Fines eyed for violators of NMC's no betel nut, no smoking policy

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants administrative procedures for its drug-free workplace, anti-smoking and anti-betel nut chewing policy so it could impose fines and penalties for violators, whether they are students, employees, or members of the public.

This early, however, some members of the Board of Regents are cagey about adopting

these proposed mechanisms, saying that implementing these procedures may impact the college's autonomy.

In a presentation to the board, NMC human resource officer Christopher Timmons pointed out that since the board adopted the policy on a tobacco-free campus, the administration is charged with adopting procedures to implement this policy.

Based on proposed procedures, violators will be fined and

repeat offenders can be barred from entering the campus.

The recommended fine for first-time violators is \$25, while a second offense will cost \$50, either of which must be paid within 15 days.

Sources said it is also being proposed that students who violate and fail to pay the fine will be denied their documents such as diplomas and transcripts. For employee violators, failure to pay the fine will merit a reprimand that

will go on their personnel file. For members of the public or visitors, repeat offenders may be prohibited from entering the campus.

Regent William Torres described the proposed procedures as a "fundamental break from tradition" and admitted that he is uncomfortable approving such a recommendation.

Torres believes that by implementing these mechanisms, it will send a signal that the college is giving up its autonomy.

According to Timmons, since the policy includes the public, the board needs to adopt the administrative procedures so they can be published in the Commonwealth Register, as required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

Saipan Tribune learned that under the proposed procedures, students who are repeat offenders will be subject to disciplinary actions and may be expelled from the college. Employees who repeatedly violate the policy will be punishable by disciplinary action that may include suspension or outright termination.

The board deferred action on the matter pending a full review by board legal counsel Jesus Borja, who is expected to issue an opinion in a week's time.

The CNMI Legislature enacted Public Law 16-46, or the Smoke Free Air Act of 2009, in September 2009. It is the policy of the college to comply with this law by declaring the entire campus tobacco-free.

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 11-0094
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION
JAMES D. CABRERA, Defendant.	and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 5th day of July, 2012, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **22nd day of February, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot/Tract No. 011 G 243, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official DLS Check No. 011 G 05, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4413 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - to reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Free concert, CD launch at the Paseo



INSTANT TEASE

WALT-BEN-CLIFF-TOMMYBOY-ROKJUAN-DEAN



By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The new music group "Instant Tease" all set to stage a free concert this month to promote the release of their first album.

"CD Launch Party!" is slated for Feb. 23, Saturday, from 6pm to 10pm at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Instant Tease is composed of talented musicians from the CNMI and Guam: Tommyboy Atalig, Cliff Atalig, John "RokJuan" Guerrero, Dean Manglona, Walter Manglona, and Benjamin Norita.

The group just finished recording their album containing

11 original songs.

"The songs were produced right here on Saipan at my recording studio, Jade Pro Studios," said Walter Manglona.

Manglona said the concert is meant to provide free entertainment to the public and encourage them to buy the album, which costs only \$10.

Next Saturday's concert will also feature performances by The Trench Tech All-Stars, Tinian's Joshua Q. Castro, LJ Castro, Paul Demapan, Guam's Sienna Rose, Kagman High School's Bad Timing, Tom Basa and his band, Samy, Guam's "Punjab," Jesse and the Reapers, and many others.

Manglona said they are expecting audiences not just from Saipan but also Tinian, Rota, and Guam to watch the concert, which would also feature several vendors.

"The concert is free so we hope everyone will be able to make it," he added. "Get ready to party, CNMI! Let's do this!"

The "CD Launch Party" is made possible by Power 99, Pacific Trading Co., R&M Printers, Salbahe Brand, and Jade Pro Studios.

Manglona thanked all sponsors, performers, fans, the Department of Public Lands and the Zoning Office for working with them in getting the event organized.

PNG police about to arrest 'witch' murderers

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Papua New Guinea police say they are about to make their first arrests almost a week after a mob stripped, tortured and bound a woman accused of witchcraft, then burned her alive in front of hundreds of horrified people in the South Pacific nation's third largest city.

More than 50 members of the mob doused the 20-year-old mother with gasoline and then set her alight on a pile of car tires and trash in Mount Hagen last Wednesday. She had been accused of sorcery by relatives of a 6-year-old boy who had died in the local hospital the previous day.

Police spokesman Dominic Kakas on Tuesday said suspects had been identified



In this Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013 photo, bystanders watch as a woman accused of witchcraft is burned alive in the Western Highlands provincial capital of Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea.

through witness interviews. He said there will be as many as 50 arrests on charges of murder by Wednesday.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, February 21st, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of January 17, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Application #2011-5741: Mr. Byung III Sin of Sinho Development is proposing to manufacture and package herbal and dietary products for marketing on-island and other Asian countries. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and its operation will be situated on lot 001 B 42 in San Roque, along Chalan Pale Arnold. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

E. New Business


1. Office operations report for Calendar Year 2012

F. Executive (Closed) Session


G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogunoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel: (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



INVITATION FOR BIDS
This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

NMHC IFB 2013-001
Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, February 8, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Friday, February 15, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 18, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2013-001**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m.** local time **Friday, March 1, 2013**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.** local time **Friday, March 1, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Friday, March 1, 2013**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, March 8, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:30 a.m.** local time, **Friday, March 8, 2013**. However, if no notice of intent to bid was received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.** local time on **Friday, March 1, 2013**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS** Corporate Director
/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** Director, Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Modernizing the papal succession

Monday's announcement by Pope Benedict XVI that he would step down on Feb. 28 was nothing short of historic. The last time a pope resigned was 1415. Europeans were still decades away from setting foot in the New World and giving birth to what would, six centuries later, become the church's biggest population base.

Considering today's globe-hopping demands, Benedict recognized that he no longer has the mental and physical stamina to lead his church's 1.2 billion faithful. It took courage for him to acknowledge so publicly the realities of human aging in a way that none of his predecessors did.

Benedict was elected to the papacy at age 78, following the April 2005 death of his highly popular predecessor, John Paul II. There was no question from the beginning that, at his already advanced age, Benedict would be hard-pressed to meet the heavy demands of state visits, international travel and celebrating outdoor Mass before hundreds of thousands. He made clear early on that his reign would be shorter than John Paul's 26-year pontificate.

Under Benedict, the church has grappled with mounting clergy sex-abuse scandals. Much of Benedict's work involved sweeping pedophile priests from the church and disciplining archbishops and cardinals who failed to act when the abuses came to their attention. The pope fell short of meeting victims' expectations of justice. But, true to his promises upon his ascension, Benedict brought greater conciliation and succeeded in diminishing the scandal's headline-grabbing character.

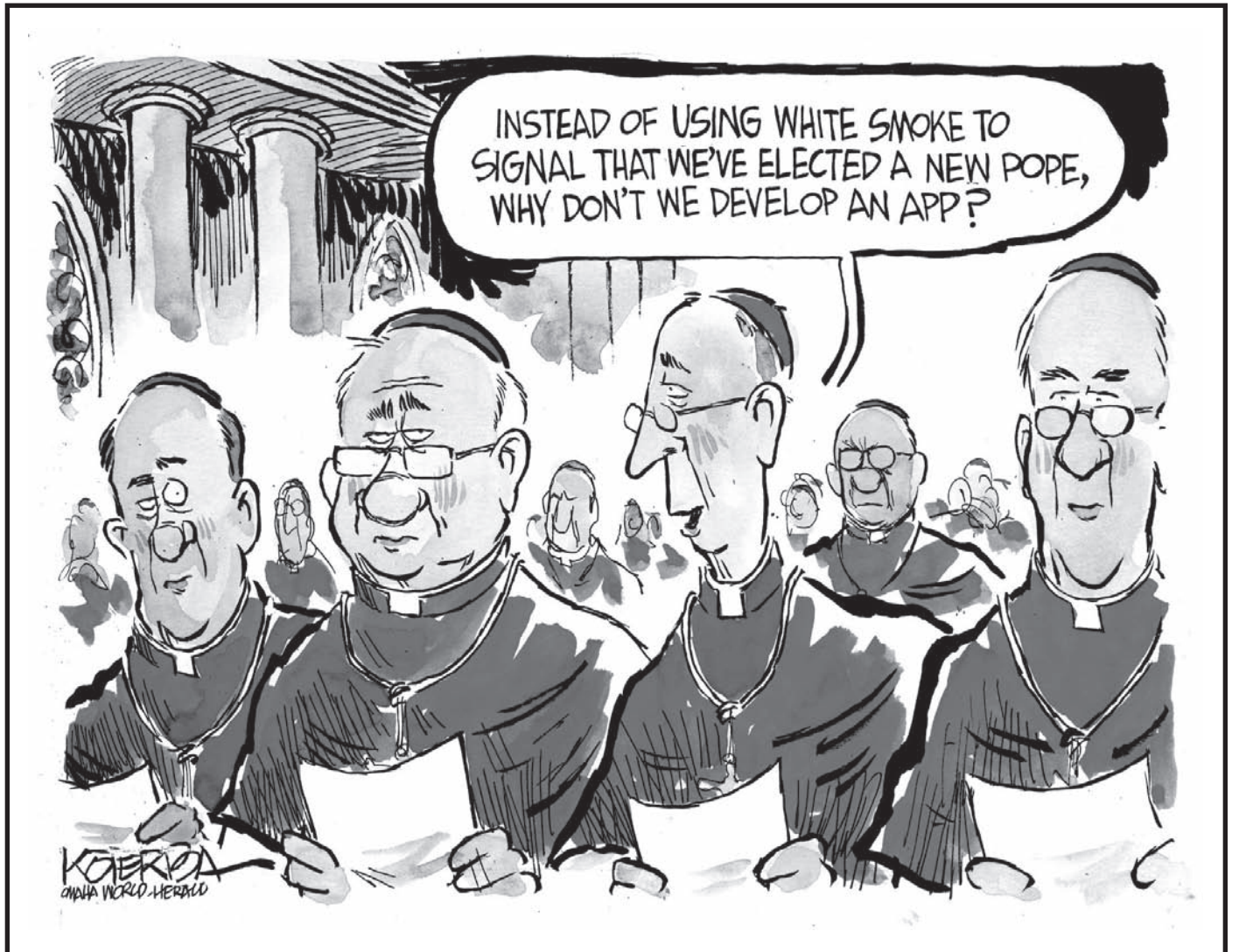
Just a few weeks ago, the pope nodded to modernity by adopting a Twitter handle (@pontifex). He now has 1.5 million followers.

Benedict's decision to step down offers the College of Cardinals an unusual opportunity to plan ahead for the succession and approach the upcoming conclave with a clearer vision of what papal attributes would best serve the church's worldwide population. The office has historically been dominated by a Eurocentric worldview. Even after John Paul's death, there were growing calls within the church for his successor to be something other than another light-skinned European.

Today, Europe's Catholic population is declining and far outnumbered by the ranks of faithful in the developing world, particularly Latin America. Africa is on a track to equal Europe's Catholic population sometime in the next decade. Central Africans, in particular, can benefit from the influence of a pope capable of persuasively defending religious liberty amid growing persecution of Christians by Islamist hard-liners.

According to church belief, the conclave's succession decision ultimately is swayed by divine guidance. But it is clear that real-world politicking weighs heavily in the vote. If Benedict, at age 85, is willing to adapt and tweet his way into modernity, perhaps the College of Cardinals should step away from old-style European dominance and give a nod to the church's modern demographics.

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North Korea's new game

Kim Jong-un has just carried out North Korea's third nuclear test and the general mood among experts is, "There they go again."

If history is any indicator, the test will make headlines and the international community's response will crescendo, followed by near silence. Over the last two decades, alarm bells have quieted despite concerns over continued nuclear and missile testing because experts believe the North Korean nuclear threat is still in its infancy.

However, this test is a pivot point. It is a clearer indication that North Korea is gearing up to play offense in the new game of hard ball. Pyongyang appears to be seeking recognition as a nuclear weapons state by creating a volatile situation on the Peninsula, thus forcing Washington into peace talks to replace the armistice and remove U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang seems uninterested in rolling back its nuclear programs but rather, a peace regime institutionally irreversible and encoded in U.S. law.

The North has claimed its nuclear program is a deterrent against a "hostile U.S. policy." The last two plutonium tests are in line with a defensive nuclear capability that also extracts concessions in six party negotiations. Now, Pyongyang is exhibiting signs of a more offensive strategy.

North Korea kicked over the game by confirming uranium enrichment activities to an American scientist in November 2010. Unlike plutonium, uranium is hard to detect and verify, and a uranium-fueled bomb is easier to manufacture. Scientists have scratched their heads at Pyongyang's choice of highly enriched uranium (HEU) over plutonium since a plutonium bomb is easier to miniaturize; it seems HEU is Pyongyang's poison. Regardless, North Korea is bent on tipping a nuclear warhead on ballistic missiles that can reach the United States.

Kim has fired two rockets in his first year, tested a nuclear weapon, and vows to unleash more provocations while his propaganda machine posted a YouTube video of New York City under attack. It is only a matter of time and circumstance for more provocations—the crux of Pyongyang's tactics and survival.

The young leader may assume peace talks would be most effective as equals—nuclear power to nuclear power. Kim had his constitution revised proclaiming North Korea as a nuclear weapons state, a step that is a clear but silent slap to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty signatories.

In September 2005, a Six Party statement agreed a permanent peace regime would be discussed in a separate forum at an appropriate time per Pyongyang's demands. But the clear understanding was that denuclearization had to come before a peace regime; Washington and Seoul's position has not changed. Clearly, Pyongyang has.

By DUYEON KIM

The Center for Arms Control & Nonproliferation

Duyeon Kim is the senior non-proliferation and East Asia fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation; she is a former Foreign Affairs correspondent who covered the Six Party Talks as a TV journalist with South Korea's Arirang TV. She wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune.



The North Korean foreign ministry stated on Jan. 24, "There will be no more discussion over denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in the future although there will be talks for securing peace and security in the peninsula."

So North Korea desires a peace mechanism while retaining its nuclear weapons, a shift in its decades-old public position. Pyongyang seems to suggest it no longer needs the Six Party Talks to extract food and energy concessions as it continues to develop its nuclear programs. Perhaps Kim has a hidden safety net and lifeline or is getting its confidence elsewhere, enabling him to weather greater sanctions and isolation. Or perhaps the young Kim is simply fearless and reckless.

Washington recently has had no appetite to re-engage Pyongyang, but South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye was initially more flexible toward resuming dialogue. However, the recent test slams the door on any diplomatic movement for the next few months, if not up to a year. It may be 2009 all over again—President Obama's extended hand is slapped by North Korea's missile and nuclear tests, the U.S. responds with sanctions, and a prolonged diplomatic vacuum ensues.

Dialogue will eventually need to resume when the dust settles, but question is "Where and how do we begin?" Complicating the problem further is the growing bond between the North Korea-Iran tag team.

The North Korean nuclear threat may still be in its infancy, and the worst may be yet to come. But it will creep up on us in the absence of a clear, long-term and proactive strategy. Reactive tactics won't solve the problem.

We've seen the North Korean issue put on and off the back shelf; it is too soon to expect a Gorbachev-like figure to emerge from the North or a sudden regime collapse. As Kim Jong-un strives to continue his predecessors' legacy, President Obama, too, has a chance to leave behind a legacy of his own; but to finally crack the vicious cycle, it should begin with presidential interest, political will and diplomatic ingenuity.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What American needs—renewed upward mobility

Once the inevitably partisan cheers and jeers fade from the House chamber, Washington will return to the thing it does best: Nothing. Gridlock and posturing will set in on the verge of yet another manufactured fiscal crisis, demonstrating how out of touch the nation's capital is with the country it portends to govern—and with reality itself.

America, like much of the globalized world, is in the throes of light-speed change. This change sweeps across demography, technology and society. It leaps national boundaries and international markets. It has elements good and bad. The European debt crisis affects the stock market here just as a new app designed today affects a small business across the country tomorrow.

What Washington should be working on is how to manage this sweeping change in the present and plan for a better future, instead of merely arguing about—let alone solving—fiscal problems, now decades in the making. In this country, a better future means ensuring change: namely upward mobility, the American dream and its social contract. It is in danger of being undone, and taking with it the wealth at home that fuels American power abroad.

But the first step toward fixing a problem is admitting one, and Washington has yet to acknowledge the generally disastrous results of the last two decades. The current state of affairs did not begin in 2008; it culminated then. The reckless deregulation, globalization and automation of the 1990s was followed by the reckless and expensive wars in the first decade of this century, until the bitter fruits arrived: economic and fiscal wreckage.

Since the New Deal and through the Cold War, upward mobility

has been our social contract. But the combination of globalization, automation and deregulation has drained trillions of dollars from the working class first, and then the middle and upper middle classes. Until the late 1990s, the middle class, for example, steadily accumulated wealth. From the end of World War II until 1999, household median income steadily rose to more than \$54,000.

Since then, it has steadily dropped—down to the same levels of 15 years ago. Over precisely the same period, families depleted savings, the national savings rate dropped, and people turned instead to debt, which soared on easy terms. They didn't turn to debt out of greed. With their incomes falling, they did so out of necessity. So, the average American family's net worth has now dropped 40 percent, even as the net worth of the richest Americans grew by 13 percent, to \$1.7 trillion.

Members of the middle and even upper middle class now face the specter of poverty. There are more poor people in the suburbs, for instance, than the cities. And their children, saddled with mountains of college debt, stand the chance of being worse off than their parents. I followed six upper middle class people while researching a book; all battle unemployment, foreclosure and the gnawing anxiety of sliding into poverty.

The potentially good news is that America set all this change in motion, and we can still shape it. In California, Silicon Valley is employing as many people as it did during the dot-com boom; Google needs its own airport. In Texas, IBM is putting cognitive computing—supercomputers that learn—to work in the economy even as, crosstown, Dell is going private to catch up.

By **RICHARD PARKER**

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Richard Parker is a frequent contributor to The New York Times, the Columbia Journalism Review and McClatchy-Tribune; he is also the president of Parker Research in Austin, Texas.



In Florida, Orlando is swelling, even as job creation sputters in Miami. In New York, hundreds of thousands of young people stream into Manhattan in a startup boom. Ethnic diversity is a strength that other societies will envy.

But none of this will succeed without renewed upward mobility—and here, as it defends its billionaire donors and its tea party grassroots, is where the Republican Party is on the wrong side of history. The Democratic Party has its own defects, and President Obama has talked big but governed small. Yet the Republicans are mistaken in arguing for austerity, which has failed in Europe, and by opposing a grand bargain—even if it's not so grand, but at least restores predictability.

That would allow Washington to move on and get in step with fast-moving reality. Then it could manage a changing society, deal with the rise of China, grapple with climate change, ensure a more stable global system and a more just America committed to its own signature change: Upward mobility.

Deportation's forgotten children

By **KAREN BASS and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As Congress looks toward meaningful immigration reform, we must take care not to neglect one of the most heartbreaking problems within the current, broken system: what happens to children when their parents or guardians are deported.

Currently, according to the Applied Research Center's report "Shattered Families," at least 5,000 children of immigrants live in U.S. foster care because their parents were detained or deported. If the current trends hold, the center estimates, 15,000 more children over the next five years will be ripped away from their mothers and fathers as a result of federal immigration enforcement actions.

In the wake of immigration arrests, law enforcers often don't allow detained immigrant parents the opportunity to make proper arrangements for the care of their children. Kids can come home from school, only to find their mothers and fathers gone.

When a child enters the foster-care system, detained parents often have little input into plans for their children's care, since the hearings and proceedings that determine those arrangements tend to take place far from the detention centers where immigrants are held. Once parents have been taken into custody or deported, caseworkers report, it is difficult for children to maintain contact with them.

All of these factors increase the chances that parental rights may be inappropriately terminated in cases where parents are involved in

immigration proceedings, resulting in permanent family separation.

Even when detained parents are released and allowed to remain in the United States, roadblocks exist to the reunification process.

If a child has entered the foster-care system, parents must meet the requirements of a child-welfare case plan to regain custody of their kids. This plan may require parents to demonstrate that they can meet the health and welfare needs of their children, yet Medicaid, most mental health services and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are not available to many of them because of their immigration status.

Additionally, parents may be asked to find a baby-sitter who is in the country legally or to prove "legitimate employment." With the clock ticking, undocumented parents, who face barriers to getting services or jobs because of their immigration status, can permanently lose their parental rights, leaving child welfare agencies to care for their children if they cannot be placed with a documented family member.

For victims of domestic abuse or other forms of gender-based violence, the situation can be even more tragic. Undocumented victims of domestic violence can face an impossible situation: either staying with their abusers and suffering violent attacks or risking detention and the possible loss of their children by speaking out.

Once parents are deported, the challenges to reuniting with their children in the United States become even greater. In most cases, children are reunited with their deported parents only if foreign consulates are able to get involved and advocate on the parents' behalf. Furthermore, some social workers and family court judges may be-

lieve that children of deported immigrants are better off living in the foster-care system here in the United States than they would be living with their parents in another country.

One step toward a saner policy is contained in a bill introduced in Congress last year by one of us (Roybal-Allard), the Help Separated Families Act. The legislation, which Rep. Bass will co-sponsor when it is reintroduced in the upcoming Congress, would make it far more difficult to terminate parental rights solely because of immigration status, and it would also allow foster children to be placed in the best homes for them, regardless of the immigration status of a potential guardian.

This legislation won't end all of the suffering that our broken immigration system causes children and families, but it's a good start. For too long, the youngest and most vulnerable voices in our immigration debate have been ignored.

We live in a country defined both by its proud immigrant heritage and by its enduring commitment to families. Ultimately, immigration reform will not be successful unless it protects children, prevents families from being torn apart and shows the world America means what it says when it speaks out on the importance of respecting human rights.

Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., serves as founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., is also a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Social Security needs a tough leader

The press and public have understandably focused in recent weeks on high-profile appointments such as the secretaries of state, defense and treasury as President Barack Obama builds his second-term team. They also should pay close attention to the search for a man or woman to serve as commissioner of the Social Security Administration—a post central to the national welfare and, with a six-year term, an appointment that will continue into the next presidency.

The Social Security Administration touches the lives and pocket-books of nearly every American. With this cornerstone of our social compact under demographic pressure and political threat, the president's choice for a successor is vitally important.

Washington is a land of partisan extremes these days, a place where compromise is an orphan and dealmakers are a rare sight. Inevitably, Social Security will again be a political football as Congress attempts to manage America's fiscal challenges. As a veteran of more than a few policy debates and political fights—some of which didn't end the way I'd have liked—I want suggest what I think are key job requirements for the new commissioner:

The nominee should bring substantial managerial experience. The Social Security Administration has roughly 62,000 employees. The agency processes payments of \$4.5 billion to 6 million recipients every month. It needs a strong CEO capable of running a large

and complex organization that does high-stakes work.

The nominee should bring considerable policy expertise. For more than 20 years, actuaries have battled, often very publicly, over the viability of Social Security's funding mechanism. It would be profoundly foolish today to ignore the demographic challenges the retirement of baby boomers will pose to the system. The remedy should not be a Band-Aid, but structural reform for the long haul.

The next commissioner, unlike some predecessors, should bring to the job a detailed historical knowledge of Social Security—of decisions that have made the system stronger and of others that have weakened it.

Diplomatic skills will be essential. The commissioner of Social Security will need to deal not only with criticism from his or her natural political opponents but also with substantial pressure from natural allies. A commissioner perceived as a zealot or out of touch with the private sector will have a hard time advancing arguments for a new structure of benefits or changes to Social Security's long term funding.

The commissioner of Social Security needs considerable fortitude. One of the most important aspects of the job is appearing before Congress (approximately four times a year, though the frequency can shift). For at least the next two years, that will mean confronting a Republican-controlled Congress whose leadership lives in fear of tea

By **BILL BRADLEY**

The Baltimore Sun

Bill Bradley is a former Democratic U.S. senator from New Jersey and a managing director of Allen & Co. He wrote this for The Baltimore Sun.



partiers whose rhetoric would suggest they'd like to see Social Security dismantled altogether. The next commissioner of Social Security will need the strength of will and command of facts necessary to stand toe-to-toe with well-prepared congressional foes.






Finally, the next commissioner will have to be someone passionately dedicated to the principles that underlie the Social Security system and eloquent in articulating those principles.

The vast majority of Americans want a fair system that offers dignity to the elderly while preserving economic opportunity for current and future workers. They deserve a commissioner who can ensure Social Security operates properly, provide a vision for its long-term future and lead the fight to preserve it from political critics or demographic threats.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼80

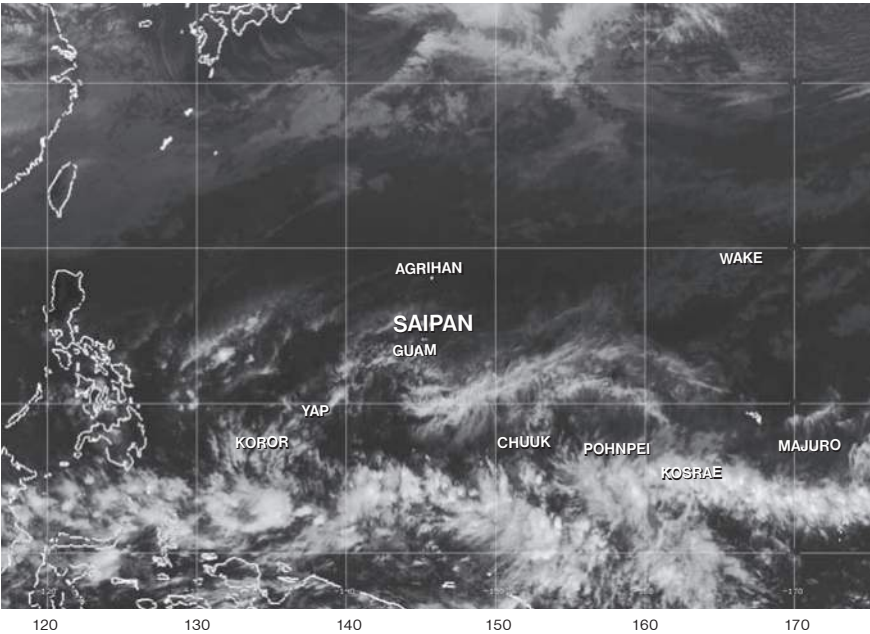
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼65
Miami	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼67
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼35
Osaka	Showers	▲45 ▼37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼28
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼28
Rome	Showers	▲54 ▼37
Salem	Showers	▲51 ▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▼21
Tokyo	Showers	▲50 ▼37
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲53 ▼39

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers well west of the Mariana Islands within 150 miles of a line from 12N130E to 17N135E. Another trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers across Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 16N158E to 19N168E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from south of Palau to south of Kosrae south of a line from 5N130E to 6N160E to the equator at 166E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Kosrae across the southern Marshall Islands to the date line within 100 miles of a line from 5N161E to 5N165E to 3N172E to 6N180. This includes Kosrae but is south of Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:10 AM	9:52 PM
Friday	9:52 AM	10:43 PM
Saturday	10:35 AM	11:34 PM
Sunday	11:18 AM	
Monday	12:03 PM	12:24 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

A US economy that's strengthened over past 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy, the expected focus of Tuesday night's State of the Union speech, is much healthier than it was four years ago. Yet growth remains slow and unemployment high.

In early 2009, the U.S. economy was in the midst of a full-blown panic sparked by the collapse of a housing bubble. Companies were slashing jobs. The unemployment rate was surging. Auto sales in January 2009 had reached a 26-year low.

"You don't need to hear another list of statistics to know that our economy is in crisis," President Barack Obama said in his first State of the Union-style address in February 2009.

The numbers were frightening.

	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013
Unemployment rate	7.8 pct.	8.3 pct.	7.9 pct.
Jobs added or lost in month	-794,000	+311,00	+157,000
Income, annual growth	2.4 pct.	1.3 pct.	1.5 pct.
Inflation, annual rate	-0.1 pct.	+2.9 pct.	+1.7 pct.
Dow Jones industrial average	7,350.94	12,397.38	13,992.97
Average price, gallon of gas	\$1.91	\$3.49	\$3.61
Home prices, year-over-year change	-19 pct.	-3.9 pct.	+5.5 pct.
Auto sales (annual rate)	9.6 million	14.2 million	15.3 million.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK food agency raids abattoir in horsemeat scandal

LONDON (AP)—British authorities on Tuesday raided a slaughterhouse and a meat processing company suspected of selling horsemeat labeled as beef for kebabs and burgers, shutting them down temporarily and seizing all the meat found. It was the first time since the growing scandal broke across Europe that horsemeat being marketed as beef has been traced to suppliers in Britain, officials said, raising questions about how widespread the practice is. Millions of burgers and frozen meals have been recalled around Europe and many accusations have been made, but so far it's not clear how horsemeat got introduced into so many beef products. French authorities have already pointed to an elaborate supply chain that involved Romanian butchers and Dutch and Cypriot traders that resulted in horsemeat disguised as beef being sold in

meals like lasagna and mous-saka to consumers around the continent.

Apple CEO: Shareholder lawsuit is 'silly sideshow'

Apple CEO Tim Cook is calling a shareholder lawsuit against the company a "silly sideshow," even as he said he is open to looking at the shareholder's proposals for sharing more cash with investors. Investor David Einhorn sued Apple Inc. last week, saying a proposal slated for a vote at the company's annual meeting in two weeks would make it more difficult to enact his plan to reward shareholders by distributing a new class of shares. Cook said Apple's proposal puts more power in the hands of shareholders, making it difficult to understand why a shareholder would fight it. Calling the fight a waste of time, Cook said Apple won't squander money by mailing letters to shareholders to persuade them to vote for the proposal. (AP)

governments, squeezed by tight budgets, have cut 560,000 jobs in four years. And until recently, an anemic housing market discouraged the home construction that in past economic recoveries had powered growth.

Now, companies are hiring modestly but steadily. Employ-

ers added an average of 181,000 jobs a month in 2012 and 175,000 in 2011. Still, unemployment remains far higher than the 5 percent to 6 percent that economists regard as normal.

But home prices are finally rebounding as sales and housing starts have recovered. And Amer-

icans are buying cars again.

"During the last four years, the economy has stabilized," says economist Sung Won Sohn of California State University Channel Islands.

What has happened to the economy since 2009 likely would have happened whoever

occupied the White House, Sohn says.

"We tend to give a lot of credit or blame (for the economy) to the incumbent president," he says. "The fact of the matter is, the U.S. economy is like an aircraft carrier. You can turn it around but not on a dime."

Comcast to buy GE's stake in NBCUniversal early



In this Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, file photo, the NBC logo glows in neon lights among other iconic signs at its headquarters in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comcast said Tuesday that it's buying the rest of NBCUniversal from General Electric for \$16.7 billion, doing so several years early as the cable TV provider takes advantage of low borrowing costs and what CEO Brian Roberts called a "very attractive price."

At the same time, Comcast Corp. raised its annual dividend 20 percent to 78 cents per share and vowed to buy back \$2 bil-

lion in shares this year. It is also buying NBCUniversal's headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York and the CNBC headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., for another \$1.4 billion.

Investors thought the move was good for both companies—GE because it got cash for its stake earlier than expected and Comcast because it will benefit more from the rising price of rights to sports and other TV programs. With the NBCU-

niversal businesses, Comcast avoids solely being in the uncomfortable position of passing those costs onto consumers.

Comcast's stock jumped \$2.53, or 6.4 percent, to \$41.46 in after-hours trading, following the announcement. GE shares rose 81 cents, or 3.6 percent, to \$23.39.

Comcast is the nation's largest cable TV operator, a business that generates nearly two-thirds of its revenue. The NBCUniversal business makes up the rest and

includes the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, pay TV channels such as USA, CNBC, Bravo and Syfy, the Universal Pictures movie studio and theme parks in Florida and California.

Comcast bought a 51 percent stake in NBCUniversal in January 2011, while General Electric Co. had the remaining 49 percent. Comcast had planned to take a larger stake in it over seven years, paying for it from operating cash, starting in July 2014.

Obama vows job creation without adding to deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pledging to revive a "rising, thriving middle class," President Barack Obama promised Tuesday night to create solid new jobs without raising the federal deficit. He's calling for a "smarter government" but not a bigger one.

In excerpts released ahead of his State of the Union address, Obama called job creation his

"North Star" and implored a divided Congress to center its work on attracting more jobs to the U.S., equipping Americans to compete for those positions and making sure hard work leads to a decent living.

"It is our unfinished task to restore the basic

bargain that built this country—the idea that if you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from, what you look like, or who you love," Obama said.

The president said his proposals to increase spending on manufactur-



Obama

ing, infrastructure and clean-energy technologies would be fully paid for, though he did not specify in the excerpts how he would offset the cost of his proposals.

"Nothing I'm proposing tonight should increase our deficit by a single dime," Obama said. "It's not a bigger government we need, but a smarter government that sets priorities and invests in broad-based growth."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

14,018.70

+47.46

+0.34%

S&P

1,519.43

+2.42

+0.16%

NASDAQ

3,186.49

-5.51

-0.17%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548	Philippine Peso	40.7459
Australian Dollar	0.9663	Singapore Dollar	1.2373
British Pound	0.6376	Indonesian Rupiah	9647.03
Canadian Dollar	1.002	Japanese Yen	92.91
Chinese Yuan	6.2372	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0952
Euro	0.7437	New Zealand Dollar	1.1872
		Taiwan Dollar	29.755
		Thailand Baht	29.877

Nation

Obama: Nation stronger, GOP should back his plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Uncompromising and politically emboldened, President Barack Obama urged a deeply divided Congress Tuesday night to embrace his plans to use govern-

ment money to create jobs and strengthen the nation's middle class. He declared Republican ideas for reducing the deficit "even worse" than the unpalatable deals Washington had to

stomach during his first term.

In his first State of the Union address since winning re-election, Obama conceded economic revival is an "unfinished task," but he claimed clear

progress and said he prepared to build on it as he embarks on four more years in office.

"We have cleared away the rubble of crisis, and we can say with renewed confidence that the state of our union is strong," Obama said in an hour-long address to a joint session of Congress and a television audience of millions.

With unemployment persistently high and consumer confidence falling, the economy remains a vulnerability for Obama and could disrupt his plans for pursuing a broader agenda, including immigration overhaul, stricter gun laws and climate change legislation.

Still, fresh off a convincing re-election win, Obama made clear in his remarks that he was determined to press his political advantage against a divided, defensive and worried Republican Party. Numerous times he urged Congress to act quickly on his priorities—but vowed to act on some issues on his own if they do not. Obama also announced new steps to reduce the U.S. military footprint abroad, with 34,000 American troops withdrawing from Afghanistan within a year. And he had a sharp rebuke for North Korea, which launched a nuclear test just hours before his remarks, saying, "Provocations of the

sort we saw last night will only isolate them further."

In specific proposals for shoring up the economy in his second term, an assertive Obama called for increased federal spending to fix the nation's roads and bridges, the first increase in the minimum wage in six years and expansion of early education to every American 4-year-old. Seeking to appeal for support from Republicans, he promised that none of his proposals would increase the deficit "by a single dime" although he didn't explain how he would pay for his programs or how much they would cost.



AP
President Barack Obama gestures as he gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday Feb. 12, 2013.

Manhunt for rogue ex-cop ends in flames at cabin

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—The manhunt for the former Los Angeles police officer suspected of going on a killing spree converged Tuesday on a mountain cabin where authorities believe he barricaded himself inside, engaged in a shootout that killed a deputy and then never emerged as the home went up in flames.

A single gunshot was heard from within.

If the body of Christopher Dorner is found inside, as authorities suspect, the search for the most wanted man in America over the last week would have ended the way he had expected—death, with the police pursuing him.

Thousands of officers had been on the hunt for the former Navy reservist since police said he launched a campaign to exact revenge against the Los Angeles Police Department for his firing. They say he threatened to bring "warfare" to officers and their families, spreading fear and setting off a search for him across the Southwest and Mexico.

"Enough is enough. It's time for you to turn yourself in. It's time to stop the bloodshed," LAPD Cmdr. Andrew Smith said at a news conference held

Suspect cornered



outside police headquarters in Los Angeles, a starkly different atmosphere than last week when Dorner was on the loose and officials briefed the news media under heavy security in an underground hallway.

A short time after Smith spoke Tuesday, smoke began to rise

from the cabin in the snow-covered woods near Big Bear Lake, a resort town about 80 miles east of Los Angeles. Flames then engulfed the building—images that were broadcast on live television around the world. TV helicopters showed the fire burning freely with no apparent effort to extinguish it.

"We have reason to believe that it is him," said San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Cynthia Bachman, adding that she didn't know how the fire started. She noted there was gunfire between the person in the cabin and officers around the home before the blaze began.

Until Tuesday, authorities didn't know whether Dorner was still near Big Bear Lake, where they found his burned-out pickup last week.

Around 12:20 p.m. Tuesday, deputies got a report of a stolen pickup truck, authorities said. The location was directly across the street from where law enforcement set up their command post on Thursday and not far from where Dorner's pickup was abandoned. The owner of the vehicle taken Tuesday described the suspect as looking similar to Dorner.

'Half of US combat troops home within 1 year'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's decision to bring home within a year about half of the 66,000 U.S. troops now in Afghanistan will shrink the force to the size he found it when he entered the White House vowing to revitalize a stalemated war.

Still to be decided: how many troops will remain beyond 2014, when the U.S.-led combat mission is scheduled to end. The stated goal is to prepare Afghanistan's army and police to handle the Taliban insurgency largely on their own by then.

Obama determined that his war goals could be achieved by bringing 34,000 U.S. troops home by this time next year, officials said, leaving somewhere between 32,000 and 34,000 to support and train Afghan forces. That is about the

number in Afghanistan when he took office in January 2009; in a series of moves designed to reverse the Taliban's battlefield momentum, he tripled the total American force before starting to scale it back in the summer of 2011.

Obama's new move coincides with a major shake-up in his war command. Gen. Joseph Dunford took over Sunday for Gen. John Allen as the commander of all allied forces in Afghanistan, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is planning to retire as soon as his replacement is confirmed. Obama has nominated former Sen. Chuck Hagel to take the Pentagon post, and the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 14-11 Tuesday to advance the nomination to the full Senate for a vote possibly later this week.

Obama's decision also re-

flects Obama's determination to wind down a war that is the longest in America's history. He has many other security problems to consider around the globe—from North Korea's development of nuclear weapons to civil war in Syria to the worrisome spread of al-Qaida affiliated terrorist groups in the Middle East and North Africa.

In advance of Obama's announcement in his State of the Union speech, the White House said the president made his decision about 2013 troop reductions based on recommendations by the military and his national security advisers, as well as consultations with allies such as Britain and Germany and talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

A Pentagon statement said Panetta fully supports Obama's troop reductions.

Senate panel approves Hagel for Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bitterly divided Senate panel on Tuesday voted to approve President Barack Obama's nomination of Chuck Hagel to be the nation's defense secretary at a time of turmoil for the military with looming budget cuts, a fresh sign of North Korea's nuclear ambitions and drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The Armed Services Committee voted 14-11 to send the nomination to the full Senate, with all the panel's Democrats backing the president's choice to succeed Defense Secretary Leon Panetta. The committee's Republicans were unified in their opposition to their one-time colleague, a former two-term Republican senator from Nebraska and twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he would move ahead with a full Senate

vote despite Republican complaints that he was "jamming it through." A vote is expected on Thursday, and barring any surprises, the Senate is likely to confirm Hagel for the president's second-term national security team.

Hagel, 66, would take charge of a military facing deep cuts in projected spending; challenges from North Korea, Iran and Syria; and the reduction of U.S. combat forces in Afghanistan.

Democrats, who hold a 55-45 edge in the Senate, have the numbers to confirm Hagel on a majority vote, but would need the support of five Republicans before an up-or-down vote on the president's Cabinet choice would be allowed.

More than a dozen Republicans oppose the nomination, and the committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, is insisting that any

confirmation be based on 60 votes rather than a majority of the Senate. But several Republicans reject what would be an unprecedented effort to delay a vote on a Cabinet nominee for defense secretary.

Hagel faces fierce opposition from Republicans who have challenged his past statements and votes on Israel, Iran, Iraq and nuclear weapons. Just hours before Tuesday's vote, foes circulated a memo arguing for more information about Hagel's personal finances and highlighting past statements by Democratic senators demanding further disclosures when the Senate considered nominees by Republican presidents.

The panel's chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the GOP demands were beyond the scope of those traditionally asked of previous nominees, Republican and Democrat—a point echoed by his Republican colleague, Sen. John McCain of Arizona.



Hagel

Asia

NKorea brandishing nukes to get US to talk peace

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The way North Korea sees it, only bigger weapons and more threatening provocations will force Washington to come to the table to discuss what Pyongyang says it really wants: peace.

It's no coincidence that North Korea's third underground nuclear test—and by all indications so far its most powerful yet—took place Tuesday on the eve of President Barack Obama's State of the Union address.

As perplexing as the tactic may seem to the outside world, it serves as an attention-getting reminder to the world that North Korea may be poor but has the power to upset regional security and stability.

And the response to its latest provocation was immediate.

"The danger posed by North Korea's threatening activities warrants further swift and credible action by the international community," Obama said in a statement hours after the test. "The United States will also continue to take steps necessary to defend ourselves and our allies." The United Nations, Japan and South Korea also responded with predictable anger. Even China, North Korea's staunchest ally, summoned the North Korean ambassador to the Foreign Ministry for a rare dressing down.

All this puts young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his circle of advisers right where they want to be: at the center of controversy and the focus of foreign policy.

A year into his nascent leadership, he is referring to his father's playbook to try forcing a change on North Korea policy in capital cities across the region—most notably in the U.S.



A North Korea's Scud-B missile, seen at center in the background, is displayed with South Korean missiles at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013.

The intent in Pyongyang is to get Washington to treat North Korea like an equal, a fellow nuclear power. The aim of the nuclear and missile tests is not to go to war with the United States—notwithstanding its often belligerent statements—but to force Washington to respect its sovereignty and military clout.

During his 17-year rule, late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il poured scarce resources into Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs to use as bargaining chips in negotiations with Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. At the same time, he sought to build unity at home by pitching North Korea's defiance as a matter of national pride as well as military defense.

North Korea has long cited the U.S. military presence on the Korean Peninsula, and what it considers a nuclear umbrella in the region, as the main reason behind its need for nuclear weapons. North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the bitter, three-year Korean War. That conflict ended in a truce in 1953, and left the peninsula divided by heavily fortified buffer zone manned by the U.S.-led U.N. Command.

Sixty years after the armistice, North Korea has pushed for a peace treaty with the U.S. But when talks fail, as they have for nearly two decades, the North Koreans turn to speaking with their weapons.

With each missile and nuclear test, experts say North Korea is getting closer to building the arsenal it feels it needs to challenge Washington to change what it considers a "hostile" policy toward the longtime foe.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan monk sets himself on fire in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Tibetan monk doused himself with gasoline and set himself on fire in Nepal's capital Wednesday in what is believed to be the latest self-immolation to protest Chinese rule in Tibet. Police official Keshav Adhikari said the man went inside a cafe, poured gasoline on himself and set himself on fire before police and locals were able to put out the fire and rush him to the hospital. Adhikari says the man was about 21 years old and has yet to be identified. He is in critical condition and being treated at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Katmandu.

Philippine Catholic leaders praise pope's move

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Church leaders in the Philippines, Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation, say they are surprised at Pope Benedict XVI's decision to resign but praised his honesty and prayed for an orderly succession. Fr. Francis Lucas of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said Tuesday that bishops and priests received news of the pope's decision with "shock and dismay" but praised his humility for acknowledging he no longer is physically able to handle the papacy. Lucas says there have been calls for the next pope to be chosen among cardinals from Asia, Africa or Latin America and asked Filipinos to pray "for the Holy Spirit to continue to guide ... our cardinals" in picking a pontiff. Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle also sought prayers for a smooth succession.

PH to spend \$45 million for airport

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government has released \$45 million to spruce up its newest airport terminal in a bid to boost tourism. Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said Tuesday that the completion and upgrade of Terminal 3 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport will ease traffic on the 32-year-old Terminal 1. Terminal 3, which opened in 2008, is already operating over its capacity, with 13.8 million passengers last year, more than 800,000 over its capacity. Once it is upgraded, it will handle more international flights, easing the load on Terminal 1, which is solely for international flights. Originally designed for 4.5 million passengers yearly, Terminal 1 handled 8.2 million passengers last year, up from 7.8 million in 2011. A majority of the passengers at the airport's Terminal 2 are domestic passengers.

Suu Kyi says willing to help ethnic peace process

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi offered to help negotiate an end to conflicts between the government and ethnic minority groups, a challenge the country's president called essential to building democracy.

Suu Kyi made the offer in a video address to members of her National League for Democracy party on Union Day, which marks when her late father Gen.

Aung San signed a 1947 agreement with leaders of the country's ethnic minorities to gain independence from Britain together.

The occasion is a reminder of an issue that has destabilized the country since even before it obtained independence in 1948 under the name of Burma.

Rebellions by ethnic mi-



Suu

norities striving for greater autonomy were hard for a democratic parliamentary system to handle, which increased pressure for strong central authority and helped lead to an army takeover in 1962. Military rule persisted until 2011.

The government of elect-

ed President Thein Sein has reached cease-fire agreements with most of the major ethnic groups but is still engaged in a bitter struggle with the Kachin in northern Myanmar.

Thein Sein in his Union Day address stressed the importance of "political stability and the end of armed conflicts."

"At present, political stability and the end of armed conflicts is of prime importance for the

flourishing of democracy in the country," he said in a speech delivered by Vice President Sai Mauk Kham, a member of the Shan minority.

Suu Kyi said she would take part in peace talks if the parties involved asked her to do so.

"I have been criticized by some people for not taking part in peace talks regarding the Kachin conflict. I have always said I am willing to take part in the peace process if the concerned parties wanted me to," she said.

Pakistani, Afghan clerics bicker over peace summit

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani clerics threatened Tuesday to boycott a peace conference in Afghanistan after a dispute over whether to invite the Taliban, another sign of how hard it will be for the two states to cooperate on a deal to end the 11-year-old Afghan war. The dispute followed talks between Pakistani and Afghan clerics in Islamabad that ended Monday. The visiting Afghan delegation, which sought to play down the disagree-

ment, was in town on a seemingly simple mission to finalize plans for a conference of religious scholars in Kabul next month meant to denounce suicide attacks and other forms of violence in the name of Islam.

Kabul and Islamabad announced the plan for the conference in November as a sign of improving relations. But the latest talks seemed to do more to highlight longstanding disputes,

especially over the Taliban.

Pakistan helped the Taliban seize control of Afghanistan in the 1990s. Afghan officials have accused Pakistan of maintaining ties to the group—an allegation denied by Islamabad.

Many analysts agree that the Pakistani military continues to view the Taliban as an important counterweight to Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government, which is seen as too close to Paki-

stan's archenemy, India.

Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, head of the All Pakistan Ulama Council and also the chief of Pakistan's five-member delegation, accused the visiting Afghan clerics of trying to use the upcoming conference to denounce the Taliban and elicit support for the Afghan government. He insisted the Taliban be invited to the event to advance the peace process.

"I want to make it clear that there is consensus among almost all the Islamic scholars that this conference of clerics will be worthless if the Taliban are not invited to participate," Ashrafi told The Associated Press.

He accused the Afghan clerics of being too close to the government and threatened Pakistani religious leaders would boycott the upcoming meeting because of differences between the two sides. Ashrafi is seen as close to Pakistan's security establishment.

World

Vatican sends message: Pope's retirement for real

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The papal ring will be destroyed, along with other powerful emblems of authority, just as they are after a pope's death. The retiring Pope Benedict XVI will live in a monastery on the edge of the Vatican gardens and will likely even give up his beloved theological writing.

The Vatican went out of its way Tuesday to declare that for Benedict, retirement means just that: Retirement.

With speculation swirling about his future role, the Vatican's chief spokesman explicitly stated that Benedict will not influence the election of his successor.

And the Rev. Federico Lombardi deepened the sense of finality by saying that after his Feb. 28 abdication, "objects strictly connected" with the papal ministry will be "terminated." Among these is the papal ring, used as a seal for documents, which is smashed upon a pope's death.

And while the first papal resignation in 600 years has left behind a vast uncharted territory to navigate—how does one address or even dress a retired pope?—the church sought to send a clear message that Benedict will not be pulling strings from behind the scenes.

"The pope will surely say absolutely nothing about the process of the election," Lombardi told reporters at a briefing. "He will not interfere in any way."

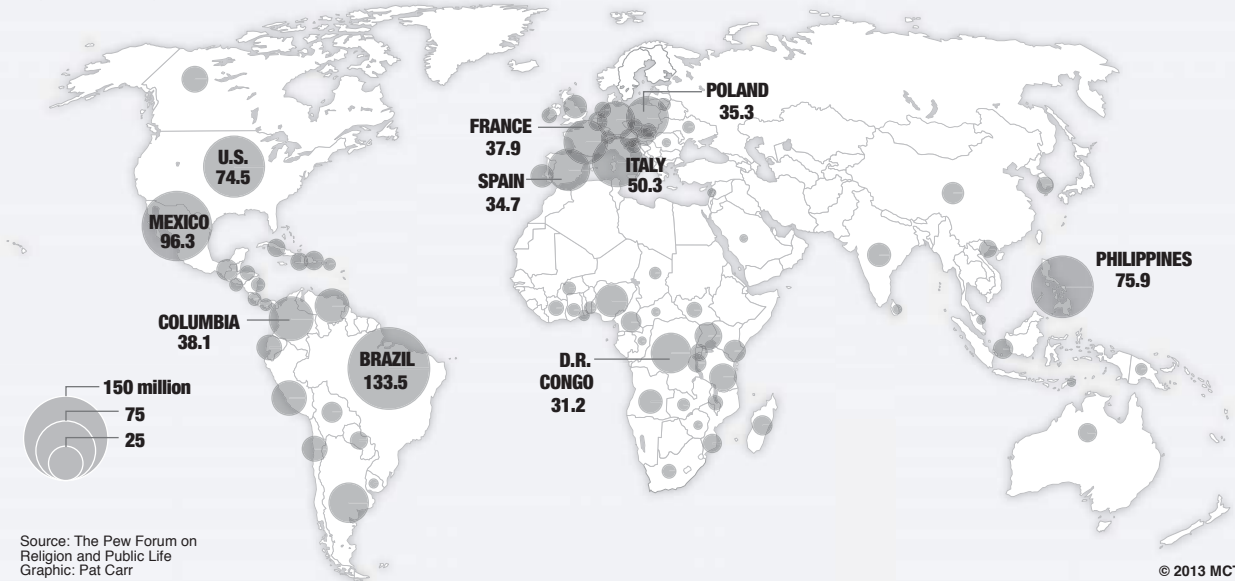
The Vatican has already picked out the pope's future home: A four-story building attached to a monastery on the northern edge of the Vatican gardens where cloistered nuns used to live. It has been under renovation for several months, although only a handful of Vatican officials knew that it would one day be Benedict's retirement home.

On Tuesday, construction materials littered the front lawn of the house and plastic tubing snaked down from the

The world's Catholics

About 18 percent of the world's population, or nearly 1.2 billion people, is Catholic. In recent decades, their numbers in traditionally Catholic regions, such as South America and Europe, have been declining, but this drop has been offset by gains in Africa and Asia.

Countries with more than 1 million Roman Catholics, 2010
Population of top 10 shown, in millions



top floor to a cargo container.

From a new name to this new home to the awkward reality of having a reigning pope and a retired one, the 85-year-old Benedict has plenty of decisions to make.

Benedict said Monday he was stepping down because he simply no longer had the strength in mind or body to carry on. On Tuesday, Lombardi revealed for the first time that the pope has had a pacemaker for years and just had its battery replaced a few months ago.

Although no date for a conclave to choose the next pope has been announced, it must begin within 20 days of his Feb. 28 retirement. That means a new pope will likely be elected by the College of Cardinals by Easter—March 31 this year.

The decision immediately raised questions about what Benedict would be called, where he would live—and how that might affect his successor.

The Vatican's senior communications adviser, Greg Burke, said Tuesday the fact that Benedict had chosen to live in a monastery is significant. "It is something that he has wanted to do for a while," Burke said. "But I think it also suggests that his role is going to be a very quiet one, and that is important so you don't have a situation of ... two different popes at the same time, and one influencing the other."

"I think the obvious thing is when he says retirement, it really means retiring," he said.

The pope's brother, Monsignor Georg Ratzinger, told reporters in Germany on

Tuesday that Benedict was planning to stay out of the public eye and will probably even stop writing—one of the favorite pursuits of the brainy theologian.

As for the pope's new name, Burke said Benedict would most likely be referred to as "Bishop of Rome, emeritus" as opposed to "Pope Emeritus." Lombardi also said Benedict would take some kind of "emeritus" title.

Other Vatican officials said it would probably be up to the next pope to decide Benedict's new title, and wouldn't exclude that he might still be called "Your Holiness" as a courtesy, much as retired presidents are often referred to as "President." It was not even clear whether the retired pope will retain the name Benedict, or revert to being called Joseph Ratzinger again.

Papacy buffeted by changes in modern world

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

The pope is by far the world's most visible religious figure. His office can be a bully pulpit on everything from salvation to the economy. In his overseas travels, he's greeted with the kind of pomp and reverence accorded major world leaders.

But as Pope Benedict XVI prepares to step down, questions are being raised about just how influential his successor can be. He will be taking command of a church that has been weakened in recent decades—by rising secularism in the West, fallout from clergy sex abuse, competition from Pentecostal groups in the developing world and crises within the Vatican itself.

"Many Catholics, particularly in the Western world, take the pope's counsel seriously, but they don't consider it binding," said Mathew Schmalz, a professor who specializes in global Catholicism at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. "But since we live in an age of technology and 24-hour media, the symbolic influence has increased. Benedict recognized this, that you need someone who is healthy and robust to engage this complex environment."

No other religious group has invested



In this March 28, 2012 file photo, Pope Benedict XVI waves to faithful as he arrives to lead a Mass at Revolution Square in Havana, Cuba.

a leader with as much organizational authority and reach as the Catholic pope.

The pontiff leads about 1.1 billion parishioners worldwide, comprising around one-half of the globe's Christian population, according to a 2011 study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. While he is bound in many ways by precedent and history, he alone can set the direction and tone for the church. Until relatively recently, these powers were a central theme of anti-Catholic hatred. (John F. Kennedy, the

first Catholic U.S. president, famously pledged his administration wouldn't take orders from the Holy See.)

Yet, as a growing number of Europeans and Americans from different faith traditions leave organized religion, many Christians have welcomed the pope's prominence as a much-needed voice for traditional belief. On Monday, when the pope announced his stunning decision to resign, the Rev. Albert Mohler, president of the flagship seminary for the evangelical Southern Baptist Convention, tweet-

ed: "Remember that millions of people around the world gain their idea of what Christianity is from the papacy."

The rise in technology has been a double-edged sword for the church. Young people trying to decide whether to remain Catholic have access to more arguments than ever about why they should leave. But at the same time, technology has built a greater intimacy between the pontiff and the public. Compared to many evangelical groups, the Catholic church was slower to take advantage of the Internet. But the pope is now on Twitter. His statements are posted in several languages at once. Papal events are broadcast on the Web.

"They have a backstage pass to the Vatican," said David Kinnaman, president of the Barna research group and author of "You Lost Me" and other books about young Christians and religion. "It gives both the perception and reality of access that previous generations might not have had."

Still, at least in the West, the pope is advancing these views in a modern world less open to hearing them. Gay relationships are gaining acceptance even among many theologically conservative American and European Christians. Women are taking more prominent positions of authority in all spheres of life, keeping the church on the defensive about the all-male priesthood.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt women protest sex assault at site of attacks

CAIRO (AP)—Washington's envoy on human rights cautioned Tuesday against the failure of Egypt's government to identify the perpetrators behind a growing number of gruesome attacks against female protesters, as nearly 1,000 women gathered in Cairo to denounce the recent sexual assaults. Beating drums and blowing whistles, the women defied advice by some lawmakers that suggested their presence in Tahrir Square, the focal point of protests, was the reason for the mob attacks. "A woman in the square is a revolution, but your words Afifi are shameful," read one banner in response to Adel Afifi, a member of the Islamist-dominated interim parliament, who said this week that women are subjecting themselves to attacks by mixing with men in unsafe places.

French Assembly passes gay marriage, adoption bill

PARIS (AP)—France's lower house of parliament approved a sweeping bill on Tuesday to legalize gay marriage and allow same-sex couples to adopt children, handing a major legislative victory to President Francois Hollande's Socialists on a divisive social issue. The measure, approved in the National Assembly in a 329-to-229 vote, puts France on track to join about a dozen mostly European nations that allow gay marriage and comes despite a string of recent demonstrations by opponents of the so-called "marriage for all" bill. Polls indicate a narrow majority of French support legalizing gay marriage, though that support falls when questions about the adoption and conception of children come into play.

Mexican 'ape woman' buried after 150 years

SINALOA DE LEYVA, Mexico (AP)—An indigenous Mexican woman put on display in Victorian-era Europe because of a rare genetic condition that covered her face in thick hair was buried in her home state on Tuesday in a ceremony that ends one of the best-known episodes from an era when human bodies were treated as collectible specimens. With her hairy face and body, jutting jaw and other deformities, Julia Pastrana became known as the "ape woman" after she left the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa in 1854, when she was 20, and was taken around the United States by showman Theodore Lent, according to a Norwegian commission that studied her case. She sang and danced for paying audiences, becoming a sensation who also toured Europe and Russia. She and Lent married and had a son, but she developed a fever related to complications from childbirth, and died along with her baby in 1860 in Moscow. Her remains ended up at the University of Oslo, Norway. After government and private requests to return her body, the university shipped her remains to the state of Sinaloa, where they were laid to rest.

Focus

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's neighbors bolstered their military preparations and mobilized scientists Wednesday to determine whether Pyongyang's third nuclear test, conducted in defiance of U.N. warnings, was as successful as the North claimed.

The detonation was also the focus of global diplomatic maneuvers, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reaching out to counterparts in Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo. President Barack Obama used his State of the Union address to assure U.S. allies in the region and leveled a warning of "firm action."

"The regime in North Korea must know that they will only achieve security and prosperity by meeting their international obligations," Obama said. "Provocations of the sort we saw last night will only isolate them further as we stand by our allies, strengthen our own missile defense and lead the world in taking firm action in response to these threats."

North Korea's third nuclear test, detonated Tuesday at a remote underground site in the northeast, was a crucial step toward its goal of building a bomb small enough to be fitted on a missile capable of striking the United States. But just what happened in the test is still unknown to outsiders.

North Korea said the atomic test was merely its "first response" to what it called U.S. threats and will continue with unspecified "second and third measures of greater intensity" if Washington maintains its hostility.

South Korea on Wednesday used aircraft and ships, as well as specialists on the ground, to collect air samples to analyze possibly increased radiation from the test, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry. Japanese fighter jets were dispatched immediately after the test to collect atmospheric samples. Japan has also established monitoring posts, including one on its northwest coast, to collect similar data.

Underground nuclear tests often release radioactive elements into the atmosphere that can be analyzed to determine key details about the blast. One of the main points that intelligence officials want to know is whether the device was a plutonium bomb or one that used highly enriched uranium, which would be a first for North Korea.

In 2006 and 2009, North Korea is believed to have tested devices made of plutonium. But in 2010, Pyongyang revealed it was trying to enrich uranium, which would be a second source of nuclear bomb-making materials—a worrying development for the United States and its allies.

Generally, it takes about two days for such radioactive by-products from the North's test site to reach South Korea, De-



A woman walks by a display illustrating the damage a 1MT class nuclear weapon would cause if detonated in Seoul, at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013. North Korea's neighbors bolstered their military preparations and mobilized scientists Wednesday to determine whether Pyongyang's third nuclear test, conducted in defiance of U.N. warnings, was as successful as the North claimed.

Neighbors prep militaries after NKorean nuke test

fense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said Wednesday.

Both South Korea and the Vienna-based Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization confirmed increased radiation levels following the North's 2006 nuclear test but didn't find anything in 2009. Experts in Seoul said the North plugged an underground testing tunnel in 2009 so tightly that no radioactive gas escaped.

The seismic event Tuesday was "roughly twice as big as what happened in 2009," Lassina Zerbo, head of CTBTO's international data center, said in a briefing. "The smoking gun will be the radio nuclides potentially released ... We cannot say anything about that before two or three days."

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday it has deployed cruise missiles with

"world-class accuracy and destructive power" that are capable of hitting any target in North Korea at any time.

Tuesday's test, which set off powerful seismic waves that were measured using earthquake-detection sensors, drew immediate condemnation from Washington, the U.N. and others. Even North Korea's only major ally, China, summoned the North's ambassador for a dressing-down.

But the Obama administration's options for a response are limited, and a U.S. military strike is highly unlikely.

In an emergency session, the U.N. Security Council unanimously said the test poses "a clear threat to international peace and security" and pledged further action.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said the North's continued work

on its nuclear and missile programs threatens regional and international peace and "the security of a number of countries including the United States."

"They will not be tolerated," she said, "and they will be met with North Korea's increasing isolation and pressure under United Nations sanctions."

Third time

North Korea carried out its third, most powerful nuclear test despite UN warnings.

Previous tests

- **Oct. 2006** Detonates nuclear device for first time; yield is 0.5 to 1 kiloton
- **May 2009** Second detonation is partial success; larger yield of 2 to 6 kilotons
- **Feb. 2013** Early estimates put yield at 6 to 10 kilotons

NOTE: Experts consider 10 kilotons a successful blast
Source: ESRI, AP © 2012 MCT

It remains to be seen, however, whether China will sign on to any new, binding global sanctions. Beijing, Pyongyang's primary trading partner, has resisted measures that would cut off North Korea's economy completely.

China expressed firm opposition to Tuesday's test but called for a calm response by all sides. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi summoned North Korea's ambassador and delivered a "stern representation" and demanded that North Korea "swiftly return to the correct channel of dialogue and negotiation," the ministry said in a statement.

The test was a defiant North Korean response to U.N. orders that it shut down its atomic activity or face more sanctions and international isolation. It will likely draw more sanctions from the United States and other countries at a time when North Korea is trying to rebuild its moribund economy and expand its engagement with the outside world.

Several U.N. resolutions bar North Korea from conducting nuclear or missile tests because the Security Council considers Pyongyang a would-be proliferator of weapons of mass destruction and its nuclear testing a threat to international peace and stability. North Korea dismisses that as a double standard, and claims the right to build nuclear weapons as a defense against the United States, which it has seen as Enemy No. 1 since the 1950-53 Korean War. The U.S. stations more than 28,000 troops in South Ko-

"The test was conducted in a safe and perfect way on a high level, with the use of a smaller and light A-bomb, unlike the previous ones, yet with great explosive power," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

The U.N. Security Council recently punished North Korea for a rocket launch in December that the U.N. and Washington called a cover for a banned long-range missile test. Pyongyang said it was a peaceful launch of a satellite into space. In condemning that launch, the council demanded a stop to future launches and ordered North Korea to respect a ban on nuclear activity—or face "significant action" by the U.N.

The timing of Tuesday's test is significant. Besides Obama's speech, it came only days before the Saturday birthday of Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong Il, whose memory North Korean propaganda has repeatedly linked to the country's nuclear ambitions.

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, and in late February, South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye will be inaugurated.

The National Intelligence Service in Seoul told lawmakers that North Korea may conduct an additional nuclear test and test-launch a ballistic missile in response to U.N. talks about imposing more sanctions, according to the office of South Korean lawmaker Jung Chung-rae, who attended the private meeting. Analysts have also previously speculated that Pyongyang might conduct multiple tests, possibly of plutonium and uranium devices.

North Korea is estimated to have enough weaponized plutonium for four to eight bombs, according to American nuclear scientist Siegfried Hecker, who has visited the North's nuclear facilities.

It wasn't immediately clear to outside experts whether the device exploded Tuesday was small enough to fit on a missile and whether it was fueled by plutonium or uranium. A successful test would take North Korean scientists a step closer to building a nuclear warhead that can reach U.S. shores—seen as the ultimate goal of North Korea's nuclear program.

Uranium would be a worry because plutonium facilities are large and produce detectable radiation, making it easier for outsiders to find and monitor. However, uranium centrifuges can be hidden from satellites, drones and nuclear inspectors in caves, tunnels and other hard-to-reach places. Highly enriched uranium also is easier than plutonium to engineer into a weapon.



Environment

Dogs cross species barrier, help cheetahs survive



In this Nov. 29, 2012 photo, cheetah keepers Shannon Smith, left, Kim Hanley, second from left, walk Shiley, a male cheetah 3-and-half-years-old, while Larissa Combs, lead cheetah keeper, walks Yeti, a female Anatolian shepherd, during an animal ambassador walk through Safari Park, in Escondido, Calif.

By **SUE MANNING**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It may sound like a doomed love story, but some dogs love big cats.

Cheetahs are the fastest mammals in the world, but they also are the world's biggest scaredy-cats—so much so that they don't breed easily and are in danger of extinction.

Some zoos are introducing "companion dogs" to serve as playmates and to provide the cats with an example.

"It's a love story of one species helping another species survive," said Jack Grisham, vice president of animal collections at the St. Louis Zoo and species survival plan coordinator for cheetahs in North America.

"It is all about comforting and reassuring the cheetah," said Janet Rose-Hinostroza, animal training supervisor at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park—the top U.S. breeder of cheetahs in captivity. In the past 40 years, 135 cheetahs have been born there.

The cheetahs most often found at zoos and wildlife parks are not considered good breeding candidates because they don't relate well to other cheetahs, or they are abandoned by their mothers, Rose-Hinostroza said. But they seem to take easily to companion dogs and look to the dogs for play and example.

Of the 19 cheetahs at Safari Park, four have dogs. Four of

the San Diego Zoo's cheetahs also have dogs.

The dogs, usually from animal shelters, and cheetah pups generally are introduced when they are about 3 months old.

"In this relationship, the dog is dominant, but we look for dogs that want to be a buddy," Rose-Hinostroza said.

"Dogs worry about their cats. They protect their cats," she added.

One of the most popular draws at Safari Park is the 100-meter cheetah run where the public gets to see firsthand the speed of "nature's perfect sprinter."

"Speed is incredibly important. It is their survival technique, in a nutshell," Rose-Hinostroza said.

A cheetah's claws don't retract, so they have footing that takes them from "zero to 60 (miles per hour, 96 kph) in 3.4 seconds," she said.

"That's faster than every single car on the market, and it only takes three steps," Rose-Hinostroza said.

Cheetahs use their tails like a rotor to balance while they are running. Their top speed is 60 to 70 mph, based on size, but they can run that fast only for 20 or 30 seconds. Extending that to a minute or more can be lethal.

"Overexertion, heat exhaustion can literally cook their organs at that speed," Rose-Hinostroza said. She added the average cheetah chase in the wild is 200 to 300 meters.

Safari Park's cheetahs chase a lure for 100 meters, a sprint that seldom exceeds 6 seconds.

A century ago there were 100,000 cheetahs in the wild, Grisham said. Today there are fewer than 12,000. The species has become extinct in at least 13 countries. There are about 280 captive cheetahs in zoos across the United States.

As efforts to save the species continue, Grisham worries there is no wild to send them home to because habitat is being swallowed up by developers and poachers are killing the cats for their fur.

Cheetahs live 12 to 15 years in captivity. Males weigh 120 to 150 pounds, and females 100 to 120 pounds.

The dogs come in all sizes. At Safari Park, the smallest and sweetest is Hopper, a male mutt who weighs 18 kilos. He's teamed with Amara, the toughest female cheetah on the team, Rose-Hinostroza said.

Cheetah females don't go into heat like other cats. Instead, they have to be brought into estrus by a male cheetah, the experts explained.

That's why breeding is so hard. Cheetahs live independently and they seldom hang out with one another.

Although the dogs and cats live together, the dogs also have play dates with other dogs and humans. Mealtimes always are spent apart. The dogs eat kibble, and the cheetahs eat steak.

"The dogs are the bosses

in these relationships," Rose-Hinostroza said. "If they ate together there would be one really fat dog and a really skinny cheetah."

One of Safari Park's dogs—the only non-shelter dog—is Yeti, an Anatolian shepherd. She works with two cheetahs—Johari and her brother Shiley.

No one is sure when the idea of cheetah dogs started, but Anatolian shepherds helped advance it. The San Diego Zoo was given a pair of cheetahs in 1981 on the condition they be given dogs because they were used to them.

A few decades ago, Dr. Laurie Marker, founder and executive director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in the southern African nation of Namibia, brought Anatolian shepherds from Turkey and raised them to protect area goat herds.

"The Anatolian shepherd weighs up to 150 pounds and isn't afraid of anything," Grisham said. "They'll square off against lions and leopards. They don't always win, but they are very protective."

"Marker gave the dogs to farmers to protect their herds," Grisham said. When cheetahs came looking for dinner, the dogs scared the cats away and saved the farmer's goats. At the same time, the dogs saved the cats from being killed by the farmers. There was plenty of other food in the wild for the cats, including gazelles, impalas, springhares, birds, wart-

hogs, kudu and hartebeest.

The dogs have helped cheetah conservation in Africa. "For the first time in 30 years, the cheetah population in the wild is on the rise because ranch-

ers don't have to shoot them anymore. They don't need to shoot them. The dog is that effective at keeping the cheetah away from the herd," Rose-Hinostroza said.

Five things that should never go down the drain

BY **KAREN DENNY**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS



It can be staggering to think that nearly half of all above ground water sources are contaminated by things you and I do at home. What we put down the drain inside our homes and let go down the storm drain outside all take their toll. Do Your Part to know what the biggest polluters are. Here's a list of five things that should never go down the drain.

1. GREASE

It sure is tempting to pour used cooking grease down your sink drain. STOP! That grease not only backs up your drains but

When we use too much fertilizer on our yard, the excess is picked up by stormwater runoff and dumped right into our waterways. This nutrient overload causes algae to bloom which removes oxygen from the water. That literally chokes the life from vital water creatures that help improve the water's quality. To avoid all that, use only the amount of lawn chemicals you truly need and only when and where you need it.

4. OLD OR UNWANTED MEDICINE

If you have medication you are no longer taking or is past its expiration date, don't flush it unless it specifically says so on the bottle. Instead, throw the medicine in the trash in a



MCT

"Do Your Part" and scoop the poop. Pet waste is considered raw sewage because it contains parasites and harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted to humans.

those in your neighborhood too. That's because when grease hardens it can easily clog up sewage pipes and can actually force raw sewage back into your home or into the homes of others on your street. I keep a large container under my sink to collect cooking grease and when it's full, I take it to a full service-recycling center. Sure, it's a little more work but a whole lot more pleasant than dealing with the alternative.

2. USED MOTOR OIL

Whatever you do, don't pour oil down a storm drain. Those drain directly to local waterways and just one gallon of motor oil can contaminate a million gallons of water. Used motor oil is another item you'll need to drop off at a full service-recycling center. And, if you go somewhere to get your oil changed, make sure to support those businesses that recycle their used oil.

3. FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES

Excess nutrients are another major source of contamination.

sealed bag with coffee grounds or find a responsible medicine disposal company. Many pharmacies partner with companies that will take care of your old prescriptions properly and some of those companies allow you to return your medications to them directly. Go to DoYourPart.com/Columns for more resources.

5. PET WASTE

And finally, don't forget to Do Your Part and scoop the poop. Pet waste is considered raw sewage because it contains parasites and harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted to humans. When it rains, these parasites and bacteria can be washed into nearby storm drains. Best to clean up after your pet and dispose of it in the trashcan.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Grammy gatecrasher says stunt was 'spontaneous'



Adele, left, accepts the award for best pop solo performance for "Set Fire to the Rain" at the 55th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man who was arrested after attempting to upstage Adele at Sunday's Grammy Awards has a new message for the singer: "help me."

Vitalii Sediuk says his appearance onstage at the Grammys was a spontaneous event and that he is only now realizing that it might have legal consequences for him. The Ukrainian journalist, who did not have a

ticket to the awards show, spent several hours in police custody before being released with a trespassing citation and a March 4 court date.

Sediuk briefly took the microphone Sunday night before

Adele accepted her award. He only got a few words out before Jennifer Lopez shooed him away.

"It was spontaneous," Sediuk said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "It was not

planned of course"

He said he realizes now that he may be banned from covering award shows, which would be problematic for a reporter who's already got a reputation for awkward celebrity encounters. Last year, Will Smith slapped Sediuk, 24, after he tried to kiss him on a red carpet, and he drew Madonna's ire a year earlier by presenting her a bouquet of flowers she hated.

He said he hopes that Adele, who called Lopez her

"good luck charm" at Sunday's show, will help him out of his latest mess.

"Oh Adele. Help me not to go to jail," Sediuk said.

He said he arrived at the show in a car that had access to the red carpet, and he did a few interviews before attempting to follow Nicole Kidman into the show. She stopped to talk to reporters and he then followed in Katy Perry—all without a guard ever stopping him to ask for a ticket. Once inside, he got a seat

near the stage, apparently taking Adam Levine's seat.

"I didn't really think about the fact that I didn't have the ticket," he said.

Publicists for the Grammys did not return email messages about security at the event. The show received additional police protection due to the ongoing hunt for ex-officer Christopher Dorner, who is suspected of three killings and has stated a desire to target police and their families.

Queen tops Britain's female power list

LONDON (AP)—She commands obedience only from her staff and her corgis, but Queen Elizabeth II has been named Britain's most powerful woman by a BBC radio program.

The monarch topped the list of 100 female figures announced Tuesday on "Woman's Hour," though she is above party politics and her role in government is limited to formalities.

by Ana Botin, chief executive of Santander U.K. bank.

The top five also included Supreme Court judge Brenda Hale and Elisabeth Murdoch, chair of television company Shine Group and daughter of media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

The list was assembled by a panel that included journalist Eve Pollard, politicians Priti Patel and Oona King and crime novelist Val McDermid.

Pollard said those in the list "were judged to have power because they had reached a place where they have control—of

policy, of direction, of influence, of staff."

She said she hoped the roster would "shine a light on those sectors where too few women are getting to the top, like politics, FTSE companies, the military and journalism."

Others who made the list included Justine Roberts and Carrie Longton, founders of the website Mumsnet; Random House CEO Gail Rebuck; and "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling.

Among those omitted was the former Kate Middleton, wife of Prince William. Pollard said the judges felt Kate had enormous influence—but not, yet, power.



Queen Elizabeth II

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Feb. 11, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "My Songs Know What You Did In the Dark (Light Em Up)," Fall Out Boy
3. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am
4. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
5. "I Knew You Were Trouble," Taylor Swift
6. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers
7. "Daylight," Maroon 5
8. "Suit & Tie (feat. JAY Z)," Justin Timberlake
9. "Don't You Worry Child (Radio Edit) (feat. John Martin)," Swedish House Mafia
10. "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Two Lanes of Freedom," Tim McGraw
2. "Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists
3. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
4. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
5. "All That Echoes," Josh Groban
6. "Believe Acoustic," Justin Bieber
7. "Some Nights," Fun.
8. "Unorthodox Jukebox," Bruno Mars
9. "No Love Lost," Joe Budden
10. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Feb. 11, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
4. Wood Camera - Vintage Photo Editor (Bright Mango)
5. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
6. CraftedBattle (C-Apps)
7. Fruit Ninja (Halfbrick Studios)
8. Sleep Cycle alarm clock (Maciek Drejak Labs)

9. Arms Cartel Global (Pixel Addicts)
10. Earn to Die (Not Doppler)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. What's the Word? - new quiz with pics and words (RedSpell)
2. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
3. iMadeFace (Keyloft LLC)
4. What's the Word? 4Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Ruzzle (MAG Interactive)
7. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
8. Subway Surfers (Kiloo)
9. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
10. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. The Room (Fireproof Games)
4. Pages (Apple)
5. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
6. Notability - Take Notes & Annotate PDFs with Dropbox & Google Drive Sync (Ginger Labs)
7. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
8. Banana Kong (FDG Entertainment)
9. Sofia the First: Story Theater (Disney)
10. Angry Birds Space HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)

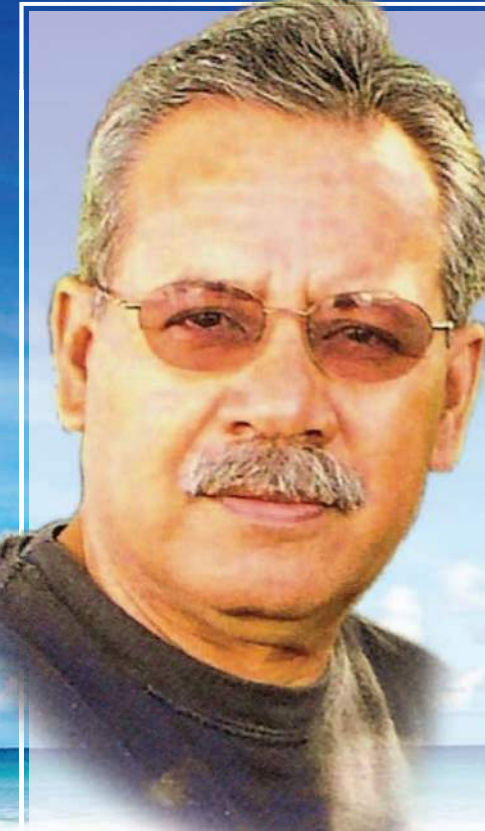
TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
2. What's the Word HD (RedSpell)
3. Galaxy on Fire 2 HD (FISHLABS)
4. Baby Care & Dress Up - Play, Love and Have Fun with Babies (TabTale LTD)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
7. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
8. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
9. Disney Where's My Valentine? (Disney)
10. Penultimate (Evernote)

In Humble Gratitude

†**DR. ISAMU JOE ABRAHAM**

Affectionately known as "Sam" or "Doc"



There are no words that can adequately express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to each one of you for the love, support, words of sympathy, monetary and in-kind assistance we received during this most difficult chapter of our lives.

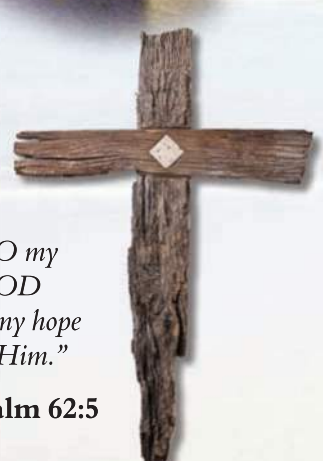
The untimely loss of someone so precious makes life almost unbearable but we take comfort that our Lord needed Isamu for His greater plan. We are truly blessed that the Lord chose our family to share our cherished Isamu's life. The wonderful memories and adventures we had with our beloved Isamu will always be remembered and he will be missed immensely. We pray that we all understand the beauty behind God's plan for each one of us and that each passing day helps to ease the ache in our hearts.

We will never forget you and will remember you in our prayers.

May God Bless Us All.

Thank You, Kulo Mulalap, Kalahngan, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.

Felicitas "Tee" Pangelinan Abraham, Children (Lisa, Jody, Jon, and Michelle) and Family



"Find rest, O my soul, IN GOD ALONE; my hope comes from Him."

— Psalm 62:5

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Good Day To Die Hard

Thursday 4:05 7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



Beautiful Creatures

Thursday 4:30 7:30

Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A young man is drawn to a mysterious young girl who moves to his small town and stumbles on a crypt of her family secrets in this adaptation of Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl's series of novels.



Safe Haven

Thursday 4:20 7:20

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A woman starts a new life in a small town in North Carolina and finds herself reluctantly attracted to a man who helps her confront her past in this Nicholas Sparks adaptation from Dear John director Lasse Hallstrom.



Identity Thief

Thursday 4:10 7:10

Cast: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, John Cho
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Warm Bodies

Thursday 4:15 7:15

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Thursday 7:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 2D

Thursday 4:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R



Mama

Thursday 4:00 7:00

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain
Genre: Horror • Rated PG 13

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Freaks and taxidermy: It's on AMC this Thursday

NEW YORK (AP)—"Wonder is still alive," says Todd Ray. "People are still curious."

Ray sure is. Wonder and curiosity led him to bail on a flourishing career as a music producer seven years ago to indulge his passion for the wondrous and odd. Today, with the enthusiastic participation of wife Danielle, teenage son Phoenix and daughter Asia, 20—along with their extended family of wondrous exhibitionists—Ray is the impresario of a freak show on the boardwalk of Venice Beach, Calif.

And, now, they're all poised to become TV stars, thanks to "Freakshow," an unscripted series premiering Thursday (9:30 p.m. EST) on AMC.

The Rays invite viewers to meet the gang, and—don't worry—it's OK to stare at Amazing Ali, the miniature woman; Goth-fashioned Morgue, whose bag of tricks includes plunging a drill bit up his nose; Marcus "The Creature," whose body is a tableau of tattoos and piercings; and George, who, at 7-feet-8-inches, is, well, the resident Tall Man.

Even Asia Ray has gotten into the act, transforming herself from a dutiful student and aspiring classical musician into a radiantly charming fire-eater, sword swallower and contortionist. Music school can wait. The "Freakshow" calls.

Granted, much of the reality-show genre could be branded a freak show, with the likes of Honey Boo Boo, Snooki and the Real (pick your city) Housewives freaking out for the cameras.

But in Ray's lexicon, "Freak" isn't a bad word at all. We're all freaks of the universe," he says, meaning everyone on this exceptional planet Earth. "We're all individuals so unique that we're actually magical creatures."

No wonder he celebrates people who are even odder than most. During a recent interview he explains that, "when they join us, they're respected and they're treated well."

Review of 'blah' memoir wins Hachet Job prize

LONDON (AP)—A critic who dismissed a divorce memoir as a stew of "vague literary blah" has won a prize celebrating the year's most lacerating book reviews.

Camilla Long's review of Rachel Cusk's "Aftermath: On Marriage and Separation" for the *Sunday Times* newspaper was named winner of the Hachet Job of the Year Award on Tuesday.

Long acknowledged finding the book—in which Cusk, an award-winning novelist, recounts the breakdown of her marriage—full of narrative gaps and "quite simply, bizarre."

She described Cusk as a "peerless narcissist" and the book as "acres of poetic whimsy and vague literary blah, a needy, neurotic mandolin solo of reflections on child sacrifice and asides about drains."

Cusk's book was published



This publicity image released by AMC shows Creature waiting for passerbys to come see the Venice Beach Freakshow on the boardwalk of Venice Beach, Calif.

Ray says the series explores why they do what they do as performers, "and, if they're born uniquely different from most people, how they cope with the struggle against the 'normal' world—how they deal with society that puts them on the outside."

How should the "normal world" deal with them in return?

"You can look at those who are different from you and be excited about them," Ray proposes, "and then you can look in the mirror and be excited about yourself."

Amid all this, some viewers may wonder what an unscripted series like "Freakshow" is doing on a network known for feature films and acclaimed dramas like "Mad Men" and "The Walking Dead."

But "Freakshow" isn't AMC's only departure from scripted fare.

On Thursday at 9 p.m., "Comic Book Men" resumes its second season of informed geek-chat originating from filmmaker Kevin Smith's New Jersey comic shop, Jay and Silent Bob's Secret Stash.

Then, at 10 p.m., following "Freakshow," AMC will pre-

miere "Immortalized," a wondrously odd competition show.

Let other competitions settle who can rustle up the best grub or shed the most pounds. "Immortalized" focuses on taxidermy.

With the motto "No guts, all glory," each episode features one of four expert "Immortalizers" facing off against a lesser-known challenger in a competition to create a winning piece that a panel will judge on originality, craft and interpretation of an assigned theme.

This unscripted trio of programs constitutes AMC's new "real original Thursdays," which builds on the run of "Comic Book Men" in its previous Sunday berth and other reality programming including "The Pitch" and "Small Town Security," which have aired in the past and will be back.

It's fitting that AMC is going off-book. A number of reality-based networks are doing just the opposite.

In 2010, AMC's sister network Sundance Channel, long acclaimed for its devotion to the unscripted genre, aired the miniseries "Carlos," which starred Edgar Ramirez as notorious ter-

rorist Carlos the Jackal. In December, it presented "Restless," a miniseries starring Michelle Dockery of "Downton Abbey."

And now, with a heightened emphasis on scripted fare, Sundance has planned a slate of shows that include, starting in March, "Top of the Lake," a seven-part series written and directed by Academy Award-winning Jane Campion and starring Holly Hunter and Elisabeth Moss ("Mad Men"). Airing in April, "Rectify" is a six-part drama about a man who has served 19 years on Georgia's death row before DNA evidence calls his conviction into question.

Meanwhile, Discovery Channel recently announced the production of its first-ever scripted miniseries, "Klondike," starring Chris Cooper. And reality-centric Bravo has signed actress Anna Gunn ("Breaking Bad") for the lead role in "Rita," one of several scripted pilots it has in development.

Does it seem a little strange that these networks are revising their time-honored policies? Maybe they just share Todd Ray's mantra: "Say 'No' to normal."

The Omnivore to honor "the angriest, funniest, most trenchant" review published in a newspaper or magazine.

Only in its second year, it has attracted wide attention in Britain, a country that loves a waspish turn of phrase.

While it has received some flak for rewarding mean-spiritedness, organizer Fleur Macdonald said the prize was intended "to encourage fearless and honest reviewing."

And organizers insist they only pick on established writers strong enough to take it.

This year's finalists included attacks on two of Britain's most eminent novelists, Martin Amis and Salman Rushdie.

In the *Washington Post*, Ron Charles' slammed Amis' satirical saga "Lionel Asbo" as a "ham fistled novel" full of "blanched stereotypes."

Zoe Heller's critique of Rushdie's memoir "Joseph Anton" for the New York Review of Books lambasted the author's "magisterial amour propre" and concluded: "The world is as large and as wide as it ever was; it's just Rushdie who got small."

Alec Baldwin, wife expecting a baby this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin and his wife are expecting their first child together.

Publicist Matthew Hiltzik confirmed Tuesday that Hilaria Baldwin is due late this summer.

Alec Baldwin already is the

father of a 17-year-old daughter, Ireland, from his previous marriage to actress Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur). Hilaria Baldwin is a special correspondent for the TV show "Extra." The couple wed last

June after a three-month engagement.

Alec Baldwin recently won a SAG Award for best actor in a TV series for the NBC comedy "30 Rock," which concluded its seven-year run two weeks ago.

Lady Gaga unable to walk, postpones 4 shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga says she's "heartsick" to postpone four shows after sustaining an injury that's left her unable to walk.

A Tuesday news release says performances set for Feb. 13-14 in Chicago, Feb. 16 in Detroit and Feb. 17 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, have been postponed.

Gaga took to Twitter to explain, saying she injured herself during a performance some time ago and her condition has worsened, leaving her immobile following Monday's concert in Montreal. She's been hiding the injury from her staff, but can no longer perform.

"I've been hiding a show injury and chronic pain for some time now, over the last month it has worsened," she wrote. "I've been praying it would heal".

Neither Lady Gaga nor the news release specifies what the injury is. The remainder of the



This Oct. 1, 2012 file photo shows Lady Gaga arriving at the Versace atelier in Milan, Italy.

"Born This Way Ball" tour is expected to continue on schedule, beginning with a two-night stand in Philadelphia on Feb. 19-20. Makeup dates for the missed shows will be announced later.

UK royals condemn plans to publish Kate pictures

LONDON (AP)—An Italian magazine that published topless photos of Prince William's wife last year is reportedly printing new pictures of the pregnant duchess on a beach holiday in the Caribbean, provoking condemnation from royal officials.

St. James's Palace expressed disappointment Tuesday that the pictures may be published, saying it would amount to a "clear breach of the couple's right to privacy." It did not say whether officials would be prepared to take legal action against the gossip magazine.

The magazine, *Chi*, is said to be planning to publish the pictures Wednesday. The photos reportedly show the Duchess of Cambridge—the former



In this Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012 file photo Britain's Prince William stands next to his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge as she leaves the King Edward VII hospital in central London.

Kate Middleton—wearing a bikini and strolling on a beach with William on the island of Mustique.

Last September, the magazine—owned by former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi—published a 26-page special featuring topless photos of the duchess while she and William vacationed in the south of France.

The royal couple took legal action to halt the use of those intimate photos, but had only limited success. Although a French court ordered gossip magazine *Closer* to stop further publication of the pictures, they went on to be published in *Chi*, other publications across Europe, and on the Internet.

Netflix, DreamWorks to make original kids series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Netflix is buffing up its credentials as a popular way for parents to keep their kids entertained.

The subscription video provider said Tuesday that it will team up with DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. to create its first original cartoon series for kids.

The series will be based on DreamWorks' upcoming movie, "Turbo," which is about a

snail who gets the power of super speed after getting in a freak accident.

The film, starring Ryan Reynolds, Paul Giamatti, Michael Pena and others, opens in theaters July 19. The series will be called "Turbo: F.A.S.T. (Fast Action Stunt Team)" and debut exclusively in December on Netflix.

Netflix has been adding original programming to its roster of

movies, and debuted the original series "House of Cards" on Feb. 1.

It has also increased its focus on children's programming in a move seen as taking a different tack than traditional premium pay TV channels such as HBO, Starz and Showtime, whose original shows are tailored more to adults.

In December Netflix announced it will offer Disney

movies, starting with films released in 2016. It declined to make a similar deal for the rights to Sony movies starting in 2016, which was kept by Starz in a deal announced Monday.

Jude Law brings psychiatrist role to Berlin fest

BERLIN (AP)—Jude Law says his biggest challenge in preparing for Steven Soderbergh's new thriller "Side Effects" was psychological: convincing himself that he could play a psychiatrist properly.

The movie has its international premiere Tuesday at the Berlin film festival, where it's one of 19 contenders for the top Golden Bear award. British actor Law plays a psychiatrist who prescribes a new drug he's testing out as part of a lucrative deal with a pharmaceutical giant.

Law told reporters he was faced with "overcoming the reality that I wasn't going to be able to go to medical school in the time it took to prepare for the part."

He added: "I didn't have a huge relationship with pharmaceuticals or an understanding of them."

Grandma pays good money to keep kids from smoking

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: It bothers me greatly to know that so many children continue to start smoking at an early age. My husband and I did that, and now we're paying an awful price. We have had emphysema for years. Four of our children also took up the habit. I finally started paying them to quit (\$100 every two weeks they didn't smoke—up to five payments).

I decided to head off the temptation our grandchildren would face. We told them if they didn't start smoking by the age of 18, we'd pay them \$2,000. So far, seven of the 10 have collected a nice check on their 18th birthday, and we expect the remaining three to collect in turn. They have grown up understanding that cigarettes are "gross" and, if they start smoking, it will cost them a lot of money!

Abby, you're the best way to spread ideas. I hope you will think it worthwhile to pass this one along.

DO AS I SAY, GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR DO AS I SAY: I'm passing it along, but frankly, I'm not crazy about bribery. One would think that, having witnessed firsthand the serious health issues you and your husband are experiencing, your grandchildren would have understood what awaited them if they took up the habit.

The tobacco industry has done a huge disservice to young people by marketing their products to them—and not just in the form of cigarettes, but also with flavored chewing tobacco, which is equally addictive. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, nearly 90 percent of smokers start by age 18.

In 2006, U.S. District Judge Gladys E. Kessler of Washington, D.C., ruled the major cigarette manufacturers were guilty of fraud and racketeering under the federal RICO Act. (When the tobacco companies appealed, the Supreme Court rejected it without comment.)

She wrote that for more than 50 years the tobacco industry "lied, misrepresented and deceived the American public, including smokers and the young people they avidly sought as 'replacement smokers,' about the devastating effects of smoking....

"They suppressed research, they destroyed documents, they manipulated the use of nicotine so as to increase and perpetuate addiction, they distorted the truth ... so as to discourage smokers from quitting."

It is extremely important that young people be educated about—and prevented from—using tobacco. Smokers who start as teenagers increase their chances of becoming addicted. Think about it: reduced lung function, early heart disease, cancer, asthma, disfigurement. Yes—it could happen to YOU.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful husband and adorable grandchildren, but I have developed deep feelings for a man I met at the gym where I go with a friend.

I find myself thinking of this man during the day and night. I don't want to have an affair nor do I want him to know what I feel. When the thoughts of him come, they overwhelm me so I try to pray. I have no plans to cheat on my husband. What else can I do?

CONFIDENTIAL IN GREENVILLE, N.C.

DEAR CONFIDENTIAL: Because you have a wonderful husband and a life you do not want to be disrupted, I recommend that when you finish exercising at the gym you take a COLD shower. And if that doesn't work, go to an all-female gym.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO MY READERS: Thanks to you, writing this column is a love-in every day of the year.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Penelope Cruz having 2nd baby with Javier Bardem

MADRID (AP)—Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem are expecting their second child.

Cruz publicist Javier Giner told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Spanish actress is pregnant.

He declined to provide any further details, including when the baby is due.

The 38-year-old Cruz and 43-year-old Bardem had their first child, a boy called Leo, in January 2011.

The couple became romantically involved after appearing together in Woody Allen's 2008 film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" and later married.

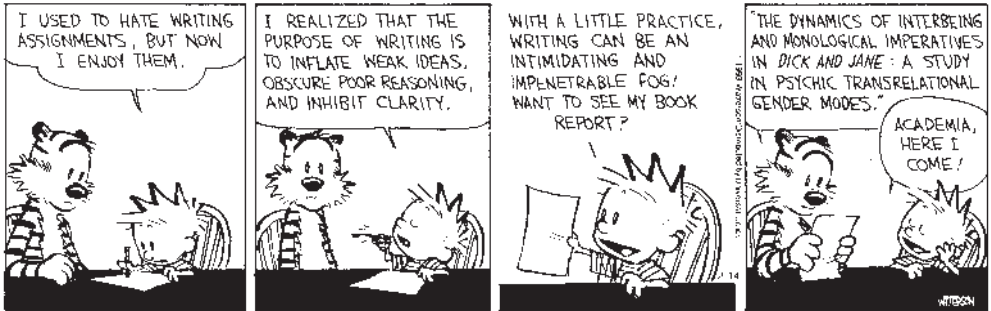


This Feb. 27, 2011 file photo shows actors Javier Bardem, left, and Penelope Cruz at the 83rd Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



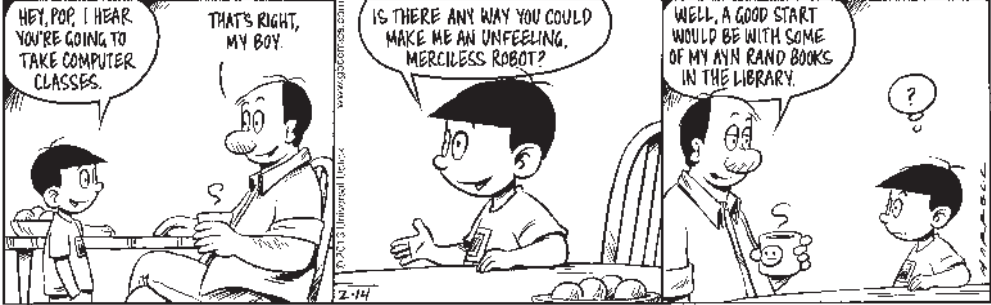
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



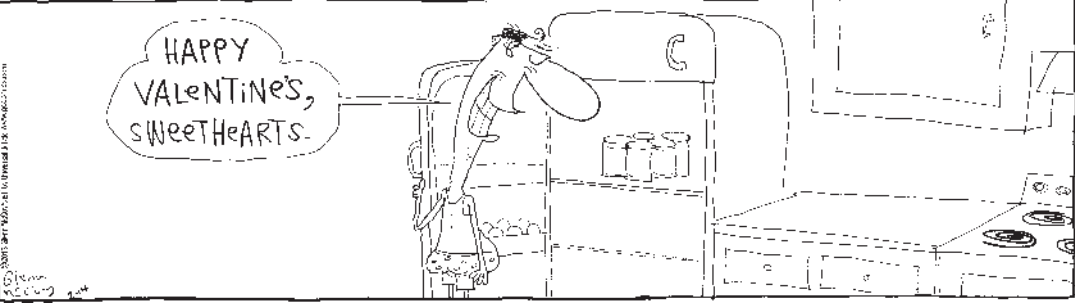
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Light touch

4 Ducks' home

8 Creche trio

12 Swelled head

13 Acknowledged

14 Touch

15 Its capital is Gaborone

17 Give a darn

18 Massive weight

19 Mistake in print

21 Bouquet component

24 Online help page

25 CD —

26 Badly lit

28 Ancient African kingdom

32 Help surreptitiously

34 "— Town"

36 Billions of years

37 Now

39 Oft-tattooed word

41 Place-kicker's pride

42 Dylan or Dole

44 Potassium source

46 Set free

50 Can material

51 Off base

52 Form of food poisoning

56 Arp's style

57 Storyteller

58 Long sandwich

59 Watchful one

60 Hamburg's river

61 Afternoon affair

DOWN

1 New-comer to society

2 Past

3 Reached the nadir, with "out"

4 Hocked

5 Eggs

6 Zilch

7 Happy for one

8 Rhesus monkey

9 Blind as —

10 Mentor

11 Thing

16 Boar's mate

20 Skedad-dled

21 "Animal House" group

22 See

23-Down

23 With John Wayne

27 Silent movie

29 Gregor Mendel, e.g.

30 Part of the loop

31 Cruising

33 Arranged in rows and columns

35 Plagiarize

38 — Kippur

40 Ripe

43 Sacred text

45 Zero

46 Put together

47 Vacationing

48 Protuberance

49 Labor

53 Bill

54 Seek damages

55 Biz deg.

Solution time: 25 mins.

ASK GOOF HAFT
LEI OREO ELBA
BEE BERNSTEIN
ANVIL TEE
TEMP GRAMS
EINSIEIN ONII
ATC STEEP CRA
SCAB STEINWAY
THRFW ARGO
SEA STALK
STEINBECK TON
POND ETUI OBI
APSE DARN MOT

Yesterday's answer 2-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 41; Enrico Colantoni, 50; Meg Tilly, 53; Florence Henderson, 79

Happy Birthday: Revisit old ideas, places and people. It's time to resurrect what you lost sight of in the past due to other responsibilities and circumstances. Put your efforts into improving your finances, health and future prospects. You must make a concerted effort to make things happen the way you want. Don't shy away when you should be taking action. Your numbers are 9, 13, 25, 27, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Nurture partnerships that are under pressure. It's better to be nice than nasty if you want to get a good response. Sensitive issues that are left to fester will escalate. Taking care of past regrets or problems will help you move forward now. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Discipline and practical applications will help you solve any problem you face. Showing your concern for others will lead to an interesting alliance. Favors will be granted if you are straightforward regarding what you want and need. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't meddle or offer help. If you get involved in a sticky situation, you will risk being blamed. Protect your position and your reputation. Moderation is required. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be shy; share your thoughts and ideas and you will gain momentum and attract the help you require to excel. Let your intuition guide

you when dealing with people or situations of a sensitive nature. Back away from people displaying erratic behavior. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will enhance your outlook, ideas and imagination if you visit people or places that are unusual or offer something you've never experienced before. Take care of what's necessary, then take care of you. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A contract or partnership can alter your financial future. A new plan or commitment coupled with pursuing a joint venture will give you a new lease on life. Details will be what separate you from the competition. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Engage in pastimes or groups that will introduce you to new and exciting people. It's time to spice up your life and put yourself first. Romance is on the rise and a chance to enhance your love life is apparent. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home is where you belong. Turn your abode into your den for both work and play. Set aside time to take care of your personal desires and to explore possibilities that will shape your future. Let your intuition guide you. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Read between the lines or you may fall victim to a scam. Keep your conversations to the point and as honest as possible. You will be misunderstood if you are too exuberant. Changes at home will end up being beneficial. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ease into whatever you want to pursue. Making assumptions based on too few facts will lead to an emotional mess. Try to decipher the information you gather before making any sudden moves. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look and you shall find. Don't mess with what's working. Focus on what you can do to improve your life, your position and your home base. Your ideas are solid—now all you have to do is implement your plan of attack. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take everything you do seriously and show others that you mean business. It's your attitude that will make the difference at the end of the day. Own your position and control your decision. Simplicity and moderation will lead to victory. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable and imaginative. You are outgoing, assertive and productive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS Solution: 8 letters

LASTSSREGREETSD
RAGCNERNRBUEREW
OOIEHAEEOAOAONOS
LHSCNPTNTMTTHSS
ESASOTKRECISETB
EEENESSVOSASEOO
TCRDFIDTPSESYA
RAIWATOSEAMNNER
ULHFUHLRCINILCD
OMHCFRNSAPOTSSOB
CMECEONESPUSOOR
LXONNNRAEYKBOEK
EANNUGDWEEKLYR
AIEATELLACERAWA
DLLDSHELPNRTSOP

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Actors, Agents, Annual, Assess, Aware, Banks, Board, Boss, Broken, Business, Call, Calm, Clinic, Court, Deal, Dentists, Destiny, Dinner, Doctors, Executive, Greet, Group, Hand, Help, Hire, Hour, Important, Lasts, Lawyers, Lead, Lunch, Meets, Missed, Month, News, Office, Open, Park, Personnel, Post, Professor, Role, Shares, Show, Social, Store, Teacher, Team, Wages, Weekly

Yesterday's Answer: Picture

THE COLLECTION OF WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE IS A SERVICE TO THE PUZZLE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE PUZZLE. THE PUZZLE IS A SERVICE TO THE PUZZLE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE PUZZLE. THE PUZZLE IS A SERVICE TO THE PUZZLE COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE PUZZLE.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk, \$5.55 to \$6.60: Must have more than 5 years experience in accounting work; at least 1 year work experience in public accounting office; at least 4 years work experience in administrative position and exposure working with the company executives; knowledge in Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 503198, Saipan MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.)

1 Accountant: \$5.05-8.50/hr. Bachelor's degree in accounting required. Must be familiar with U.S. GAAP. Public accounting experience required. Email resume to hps@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Piano teacher: \$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonseil@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Electrician. \$5.55/hr. Mail resume to C & H Saipan, Inc. P.O. Box 501608 Saipan, MP 96950.

1 Building & Grounds Maintenance. \$5.55/hr. Mail resume to Pacific International Marianas Inc. dba Midway Motors. P.O. Box 500887 Saipan, MP 96950.

Needed Admin Assistant minimum 5 yrs experience, organized, Excel, Word, PowerPoint. Bookkeeping, Quickbooks a plus. Please call N15Architects 233-5115.

2 CAD operators, minimum 5 yrs exp, ACAD v2012: one Public Utilities-Water & Wastewater; one CAD architect w degree. Please call N15Architects 233-5115.

Building Maintenance (1) – with experience & knowledge on electrical and carpentry work. Send resume to K. Young Corporation. P.O. Box 503275, Tel. 233-9876.

YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (1): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards. Must be able to obtain health certificate. Must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bldg., 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

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4 – HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

High school diploma with (5) years minimum work related experience. Able to operate several types of heavy equipment including but not limited to Backhoe/Loader, Road Grader, Tractor/Trailer Combo, Bulldozer, Hydraulic Crane. Load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload. Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Clean, lubricate and inspect mechanisms or accessories such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices to prevent malfunctions or damage. Perform routine maintenance of equipment. Must have knowledge in troubleshooting and able to diagnose problem or malfunction and make repairs as necessary.

Interested qualified applicants can submit their resume and latest police clearance via e-mail to saipan@aicconstruction.com or mail to AIC Marianas, Inc., PMB 564 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Closing Date: February 21, 2013

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 13-008

Opening Date: Monday, February 4, 2013
Closing Date: Friday, February 15, 2013

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER
(Electrical)**

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Rota or his/her designee. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

LOCATION: Primarily at the Power Plant on Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. However, periodic meetings may occur at the Rota Administration Office.

SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$33,640.00 per annum; Un-classified.

POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Not Contracted; may be subject to work authorization requirements.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering. Please contact the CUC HR Office for more details.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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LeBron sets mark, Heat top Blazers, 117-104



MIAMI (AP)—It's not the type of streak that LeBron James ever thought about, this run of putting together at least 30 points and 60 percent shooting in six straight games.

Still, it's something he'll savor. He's rolling right now, and so are the Miami Heat.

James scored 30 points on 11 for 15 shooting to get into the NBA record books, Chris Bosh scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and the Heat wound up beating the Portland Trail Blazers 117-104 in a wild, momentum-swinging game on Tuesday night.

It was the 1,000th regular-season win in Heat history. But on this night, the only history anyone will remember was what James accomplished.

"I'm at a loss for words," James said in a televised postgame interview. "Like I say over and over, I know the history of the game. I know how many unbelievable players who came through the ranks, who paved the way for me and my teammates. And for me to be in the record books by myself with such a stat—any stat—it's big-time."

Dwyane Wade added 24 points for Miami, which wasted a pair of 14-point leads - then put the game away with a 14-0 run in the final minutes. Ray Allen added 14 for Miami.

Damian Lillard had a game-high 33 points for Portland, which got 29 from LaMarcus Aldridge and 20 from Wesley Matthews.

Just like the Heat, the Blazers also saw a 14-point lead slip away in the game, and then simply got shut down late by a stretch of airtight Miami defense.

"That was typical Miami Heat stuff," Lillard said. "Transition, finishing strong around the rim, and LeBron picking defenses apart."

James has made 66 of his past 92 shots, over the past six games—and is an absurd 60 for 80, or 75 percent, in his last 188 minutes of court time. According to the Heat, only Adrian Dantley and Moses Malone had done the 30-point, 60-percent streak in five straight outings before James joined their club.

Now he stands alone.

"That's why he is who he is," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The best player in the game."

Added Wade: "Obviously he is doing something that is amazing and special."

And on a night where the teams took turns putting together big runs, it was the Heat who had the last rally—ultimately, the last laugh as well.

With the game tied at 99-all, James drove baseline on former Cleveland teammate Sasha Pavlovic for a two-handed slam that he punctuated with a long scream.

The Blazers immediately responded. Matthews made a 3-pointer on the next Portland possession to give the Trail Blazers their last lead. Miami scored the next 14 points, and when James got loose for a dunk with 2:38 remaining, history was his—the first stretch of six straight 30-point games on 60 percent or better shooting in each outing.

"He played a very good basketball game," Spoelstra deadpanned afterward. "That's all you're going to get out of me right now. He competes. He loves to compete. He loves close games. ... And he's leading us, not just with his talent."



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) goes to the basket against Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013.

Bosh made a jumper with 1:55 left to end the run and seal the win, Miami's sixth straight overall.

Miami next plays Thursday night in Oklahoma City, an NBA Finals rematch before heading into the All-Star break. The Heat topped the Thunder in the first meeting of the clubs this season, winning in Miami on Christmas Day.

"It's a game we'll look forward to," Wade said.

A glance at the halftime boxscore—Portland 59, Miami 58—would have suggested the opening two quarters were closely contested, back-and-forth basketball.

Not exactly.

There were deep and dramatic shifts in momentum, with James and Aldridge simply taking over play for long stretches in the early going.

Miami started with a flurry, hitting its first seven shots and doing so with James collecting five assists in the game's first 3:52. The Heat led 14-5 after that burst, and were still shooting 75 percent with a minute to go in the opening quarter.

They also were trailing at that point. The Blazers were doing anything they wanted on the offensive end.

"I thought it was a good effort by our team," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "Miami's one of the best if not the best team in the league right now and they are playing at a high level. We matched it for about 44 minutes."

More than matched it for a while, too.

Aldridge went on a personal 13-0 run over a stretch of nearly four minutes midway through the half, single-handedly seeming to turn what was a 29-24 Portland deficit into a 37-29 Portland lead. And another quick burst, this time a 10-1 run by the Blazers, gave the visi-

tors what was their biggest lead, 57-43 with 4:48 left in the half.

Take away Miami's sizzling start, and the Blazers outscored the Heat 52-29 over a huge swath of the first half. Of course, by the break, everything looked just about even. James scored 10 points in a 15-2 Miami run to end the half, and the Blazers' lead was down to a single point at intermission.

It wound up as a 34-12 run by the Heat in all, as Miami rebuilt what became a 14-point lead midway through third.

Predictably, the Blazers came back. Lillard scored nine points in the final 4:36 of the third, and the Miami lead was down to 86-82 entering the fourth after James waited too long to shoot a beat-the-clock 30-footer that went in anyway.

But down the stretch, it was all Miami.

"I thought one of the biggest differences were the 50-50 balls," Lillard said. "A few went their way. And they made us pay."

Lakers 91, Suns 85

In Los Angeles, Dwight Howard had 19 points and 18 rebounds, Antawn Jamison added 19 points, and Los Angeles survived Kobe Bryant's bizarre four-point performance for its eighth win in 11 games.

Bryant didn't attempt a shot in the first half and scored his first basket with 2:13 to play, finishing 1 for 8 with eight turnovers in one of the oddest games of his 17-year career.

Yet the Lakers survived against the Suns, getting 17 points from Metta World Peace and maintaining a small lead down the stretch of their 12th win in Phoenix's last 13 visits to Staples Center.

Michael Beasley scored 18 points

and Luis Scola had 15 for the Suns, who have lost eight of 10. Phoenix is 5-23 on the road.

Raptors 109, Nuggets 108

In Toronto, Rudy Gay hit a pull-up jump shot with less than five seconds remaining and Toronto beat short-handed Denver.

DeMar DeRozan scored 22 points, Gay had 17 and John Lucas scored 12 of his 14 points in the final quarter as the Raptors won their third straight.

It was the second game-winner in three games for Gay, who beat Indiana with an overtime jumper last Friday.

Kyle Lowry had 11 points and 10 assists and Alan Anderson had 10 for Toronto, which made seven 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 29 points, Kenneth Faried had 15 points and 11 rebounds and Anthony Randolph scored 16.

Andre Miller scored 12 points for the Nuggets, who came in having won nine of their past 10 overall and 15 of their past 17 meetings with Toronto.

Grizzlies 108, Kings 101

In Memphis, Tenn., Marc Gasol had 24 points and 12 rebounds, Mike Conley scored 22 points and Memphis beat Sacramento.

Tony Allen added a season-high 19 points to help the Grizzlies win their sixth straight over the Kings at home. Memphis entered the All-Star break with a three-game win streak, their longest in more than a month.

DeMarcus Cousins scored 23 points and Tyreke Evans had 20 for the Kings.

Jazz 109, Thunder 94

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 23 points, Paul Millsap had 18 and Utah ended Oklahoma City's four-game winning streak.

Utah's bench outscored Oklahoma City's 49-25, and the Jazz bigs dominated the boards, holding a 16-7 edge on offensive rebounds.

The Thunder also committed 20 turnovers.

The game was scrappy from the start, with Kendrick Perkins and Kevin Durant both called for flagrant fouls, and Perkins whistled for a technical. It was the first flagrant foul of Durant's career.

Durant finished with 33 points on 11-of-16 shooting, and Russell Westbrook added 22 points.

Rockets 116, Warriors 107

In Oakland, California, James Harden had 27 points and seven rebounds on a nagging left knee, Chandler Parsons added 21 points and nine assists and Houston beat slumping Golden State.

Jeremy Lin finished with 14 points and 10 assists to help the Rockets past his former team for the second time in eight days.

A week after Houston tied the NBA record with 23 made 3-pointers in a testy 140-109 rout of the Warriors, the Bay Area rematch took a little longer to decide.

Stephen Curry had 27 points and six assists and Jarrett Jack scored 22 points after missing the past three games with a right shoulder injury for the Warriors, who head into the All-Star break on a season-long five-game losing streak.

Pressure on Sacramento to speed up offer for Kings

The clock is ticking for Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson's efforts to keep the Kings from moving to Seattle.

Speaking at his weekly City Hall news conference, Johnson said Tuesday that the joint committee that will decide whether the Kings leave might want to discuss his city's proposal before the NBA Board of Governors meetings April 18-19.

Owners can vote on the pending sale and relocation of the Kings at any time, but the annual gathering in New York is typically when decisions about moving a franchise are made.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said last week he combined the two committees that oversee sales and relocations and told them, "You guys figure it out."

"I'm under the assumption that the joint committee may want to hear from us sooner," Johnson said. "We're going to have all the agreements and all the actions and all the documents squared by March 1, as well as if there's an opportunity to present to the joint committee prior to mid-April, then I feel very confident. We're going to have all our ducks in order. We're going to be ready before mid-April if that's what it takes."

Johnson plans to be in Houston this weekend during All-Star festivities to lobby league owners and update Stern on Sacramento's latest efforts.

The Seattle group led by hedge-fund manager Chris Hansen and Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer, which has a pending purchase agreement for the Kings, already has filed for relocation.

The relocation of a franchise requires a majority approval of the Board of Governors—which consists of league owners—and the sale of the franchise would require a three-fourths majority. So Stern appointed the joint committee to work through the complex deal.

Johnson, a former NBA All-Star, has been promised a chance to present a bid to NBA owners to keep the team in California's capital city—with a plan to help finance a new downtown arena.

The mayor has introduced more than 20 local investors who have pledged at least \$1 million each to be minority owners in the team, but he has yet to announce the major equity partners he hopes will anchor a "fair and competitive offer."

Billionaire Ron Burkle, co-owner of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins, and 24 Hour Fitness founder Mark Mastrov are among those who have had serious discussions with the mayor. Burkle also met with Stern at league headquarters last month.

Body slam for wrestling: Sport cut from Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—For wrestling, this may have been the ultimate body slam: getting tossed out of the Olympic rings.

The vote Tuesday by the IOC's executive board stunned the world's wrestlers, who see their sport as popular in many countries and steeped in history as old as the Olympics themselves.

While wrestling will be included at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, it was cut from the games in 2020, which have yet to be awarded to a host city.

2004 Olympic Greco-Roman champion Khasan Baroev of Russia called the decision "mind-boggling."

"I just can't believe it. And what sport will then be added to the Olympic program? What sport is worthy of replacing ours?" Baroev told the ITAR-Tass news agency. "Wrestling is popular in many countries—just see how the medals were distributed at the last Olympics."

American Rulon Gardner, who upset three-time Russian Olympic champion Alexander Karelin at the Sydney Games in an epic gold-medal bout known as the "Miracle on the Mat," was saddened by the decision to drop what he called "a beloved sport."

"It's the IOC trying to change the Olympics to make it more mainstream and more viewer-friendly instead of sticking to what they founded the Olympics on," Gardner told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Logan, Utah.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee reviewed the 26 sports on its summer program in order to remove one of them so it could add one later this year. It decided to cut wrestling and keep modern pentathlon—a sport that combines fencing, horse riding, swimming, running and shooting—and was considered to be the most likely to be dropped.

The board voted after reviewing a report by the IOC program commission report that analyzed 39 criteria, including TV ratings, ticket sales, anti-doping policy and global participation and popularity. With no official rankings or recommendations contained in the report, the final decision by the 15-member board was also subject to political, emotional and sentimental factors.

"This is a process of renewing and renovating the program for the Olympics," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said. "In the view of the executive board, this was the best program for the Olympic Games in 2020. It's not a case of what's wrong with wrestling; it is what's right with the 25 core sports."

According to IOC documents obtained by the AP, wrestling ranked "low" in sev-

eral of the technical criteria, including popularity with the public at the London Games—just below 5 on a scale of 10. Wrestling sold 113,851 tickets in London out of 116,854 available.

Wrestling also ranked "low" in global TV audience with a maximum of 58.5 million viewers and an average of 23 million, the documents show. Internet hits and press coverage were also ranked as low.

NBC, which televises the Olympics in the U.S., declined comment.

The IOC also noted that FILA—the international wrestling federation—has no athletes on its decision-making bodies, no women's commission, no ethics rules for technical officials and no medical official on its executive board.

Modern pentathlon also ranked low in general popularity in London, with 5.2 out of 10. The sport also ranked low in all TV categories, with maximum viewership of 33.5 million and an average of 12.5 million.

FILA has 177 member nations, compared to 108 for modern pentathlon.

Modern pentathlon, which has been on the Olympic program since the 1912 Stockholm Games, was created by French baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic movement.

It also benefited from the work of Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., the son of the former IOC president who is a UIPM vice president and member of the IOC board.

"We were considered weak in some of the scores in the program commission report but strong in others," Samaranch told the AP. "We played our cards to the best of our ability and stressed the positives."

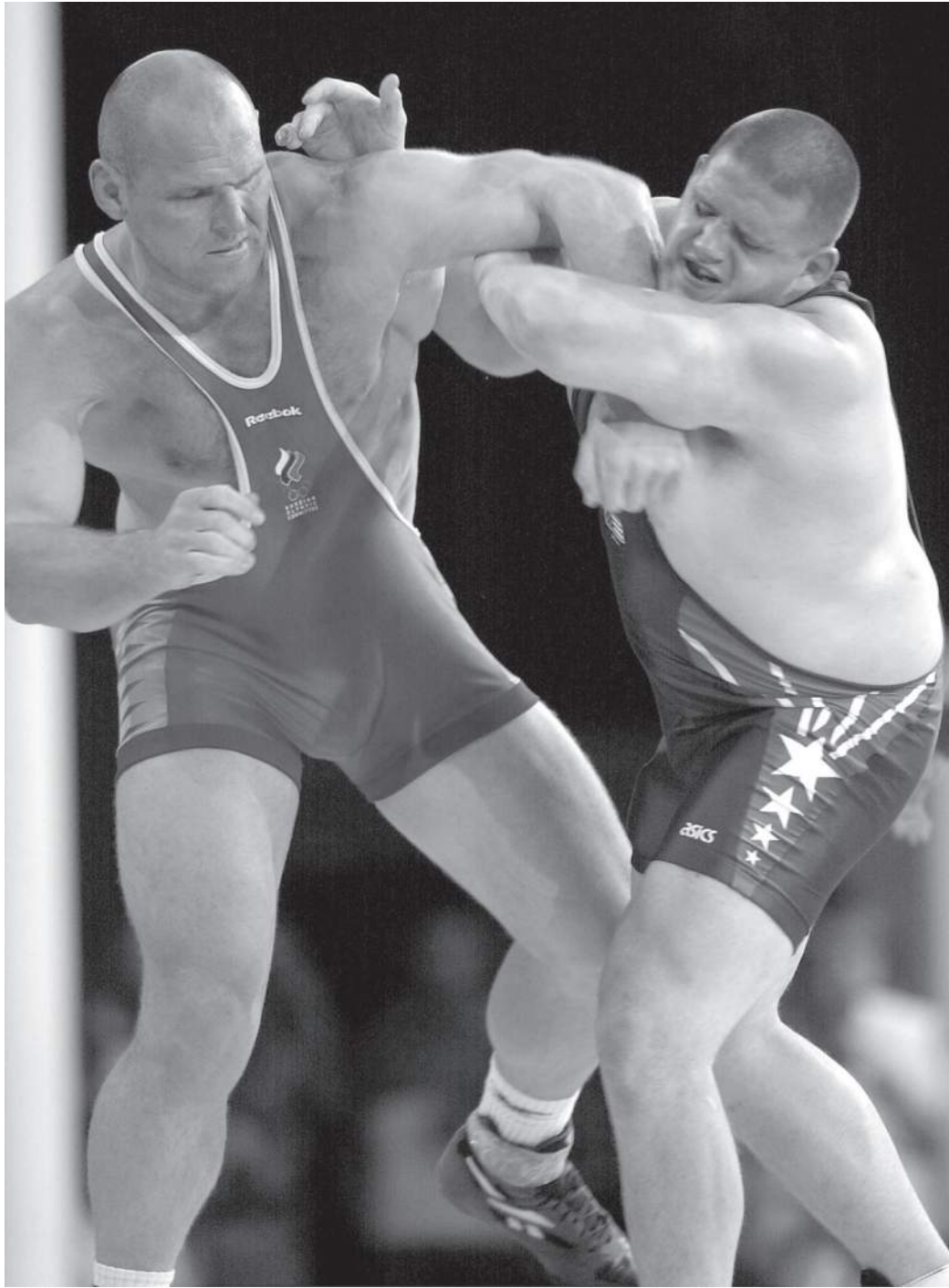
Klaus Schormann, president of governing body UIPM, lobbied hard to protect his sport's Olympic status and it paid off in the end.

"We have promised things and we have delivered," he said after Tuesday's decision. "That gives me a great feeling. It also gives me new energy to develop our sport further and never give up."

The IOC executive board will meet in May in St. Petersburg, Russia, to decide which sport or sports to propose for 2020 inclusion. The final vote will be made at the IOC session, or general assembly, in September in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Wrestling will now join seven other sports in applying for 2020, but it is extremely unlikely that it would be voted back in so soon after being removed by the executive board.

The other sports vying for a single opening in 2020 are a combined bid from baseball and softball, karate, squash, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding



In this Sept. 27, 2000 file photo, Rulon Gardner, right, of the United States, holds the arm of Alexander Karelin of Russia during the final bout in the 130 kg class of Greco-Roman wrestling event at the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney.

and wushu, a martial art.

"Today's decision is not final," Adams said. "The session is sovereign and the session will make the final decision."

Wrestling featured 344 athletes competing in 11 medal events in freestyle and seven in Greco-Roman at last year's London Olympics, with Russia dominating the podium but Iran and Azerbaijan making strong showings. Women's wrestling was added to the Olympics at the 2004 Athens Games.

Karelin noted in an interview with Vyes' Sport that Russians and Soviets have won 77 gold medals.

"It's understandable that a lot of people didn't like this," Karelin said. "I'm not a supporter of conspiracy theory, but it seems to me that the underlying cause here is obvious."

Tuesday's decision came via secret ballot over four rounds, with 14 members voting each time on which sport should not be included in the core group. IOC President Jacques Rogge did not vote.

Three sports were left in the final round: wrestling, field hockey and modern pentathlon. Eight members voted against wrestling and three each against

the other two sports. Taekwondo and canoe kayaking survived the previous rounds.

"I was shocked," said IOC board member Rene Fasel of Switzerland.

"It was an extremely difficult decision to take," added IOC Vice President Thomas Bach of Germany. "The motivation of every member is never based on a single reason. There are always several reasons. It was a secret vote. There will always be criticism, but I think the great majority will understand that we took a decision based on facts and for the modernization of the Olympic Games."

Wrestling was featured in the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896. Along with Russia's Karelin, it has produced such American stars as Gardner, Bruce Baumgartner, Jeff Blatnick and Jordan Burroughs.

U.S. Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun also expressed surprise at the IOC decision, citing "the history and tradition of wrestling, and its popularity and universality."

"It is important to remember that today's action is a recommendation, and we hope that there will be a meaningful opportunity to discuss the impor-

tant role that wrestling plays in the sports landscape both in the United States and around the world," Blackmun said in a statement. "In the meantime, we will fully support USA Wrestling and its athletes."

FILA said in a statement that it was "greatly astonished" by the decision, adding that the federation "will take all necessary measures to convince the IOC executive board and IOC members of the aberration of such decision against one of the founding sports of the ancient and modern Olympic Games."

It said it has always complied with IOC regulations and is represented in 180 countries, with wrestling the national sport in some of them.

The federation, which is headed by Raphael Martinetti and based in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, said it would meet next week in Thailand to discuss the matter.

Gardner cited wrestling's worldwide popularity and urged a campaign to keep it in the Olympics.

"It just seems like wrestling—if we don't fight, we're going to die," he said. "At this point, it's time for everybody to man up and support the program."

The decision hit hard in Russia, which has long been a power in the sport.

Mikhail Mamiashvili, president of the Russian Wrestling Federation, suggested FILA had not done enough to keep the sport in the games.

"We want to hear what was done to prevent this issue from even being discussed at the board," he said on the Rossiya TV channel.

In comments carried by ITAR-Tass, Mamiashvili added: "I can say for sure that the roots of this problem is at the FILA. I believe that Martinetti's task was to work hard, socialize and defend wrestling's place before the IOC."

Alexander Leipold, a 2000 Olympic champion from Germany and former freestyle German team coach, said he was shocked.

"We are a technical, tactical martial sport where the aim is not to harm the opponent," he said. "Competing at the Olympics is the greatest for an athlete."

Wrestling's long history in the Olympics has featured some top names and moments:

■ Karelin won the super-heavyweight gold in Greco-Roman over three straight Olympics—1988, 1992 and 1996—until his streak was ended by Gardner, who beat him for the gold in 2000.

■ Baumgartner won four Olympic medals, including golds in 1984 and 1992.

■ Blatnick overcame cancer to win gold in Greco-Roman at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, bursting into tears after the match. Blatnick died last year at age 55.

■ Burroughs emerged as the star of the sport in London, where he won the 74-kilogram gold.

The last sports removed from the Olympics were baseball and softball, voted out by the IOC in 2005 and off the program since the 2008 Beijing Games. Golf and rugby will be joining the program at the 2016 Games in Rio.

Among those in Lausanne were the leaders of the recently created World Baseball Softball Confederation. The two sports agreed last year to merge in a joint bid to return to the games.

Don Porter, the American who heads international softball, and Riccardo Fraccari, the Italian who leads baseball, are working out the final details of their unified body ahead of their presentation to the IOC in May.

A major hurdle remains the lack of a commitment from Major League Baseball to release top players for the Olympics.

Porter and Fraccari said they hope to have another meeting with MLB officials in April in Tokyo.

"The next thing is to sit down with them and see how they can help us," Porter said. "It all depends on the timing, the timing of the season. It's not an easy decision to allow players a week off."

Insider, Yuman Construction upend foes

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
 walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER



Insider got past Cargo Express, 78-70, and Yuman Construction defeated Hite, 82-79, as the playoffs of the 3rd Blue Haus Invitational

Basketball League continued Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In addition the R-Rebels defeated Sun Palace, 89-81, last Thursday, while Angie's Boys had the Rollers in a chokehold, 75-52, with just over six minutes left in regulation before rain caused a suspension of play.

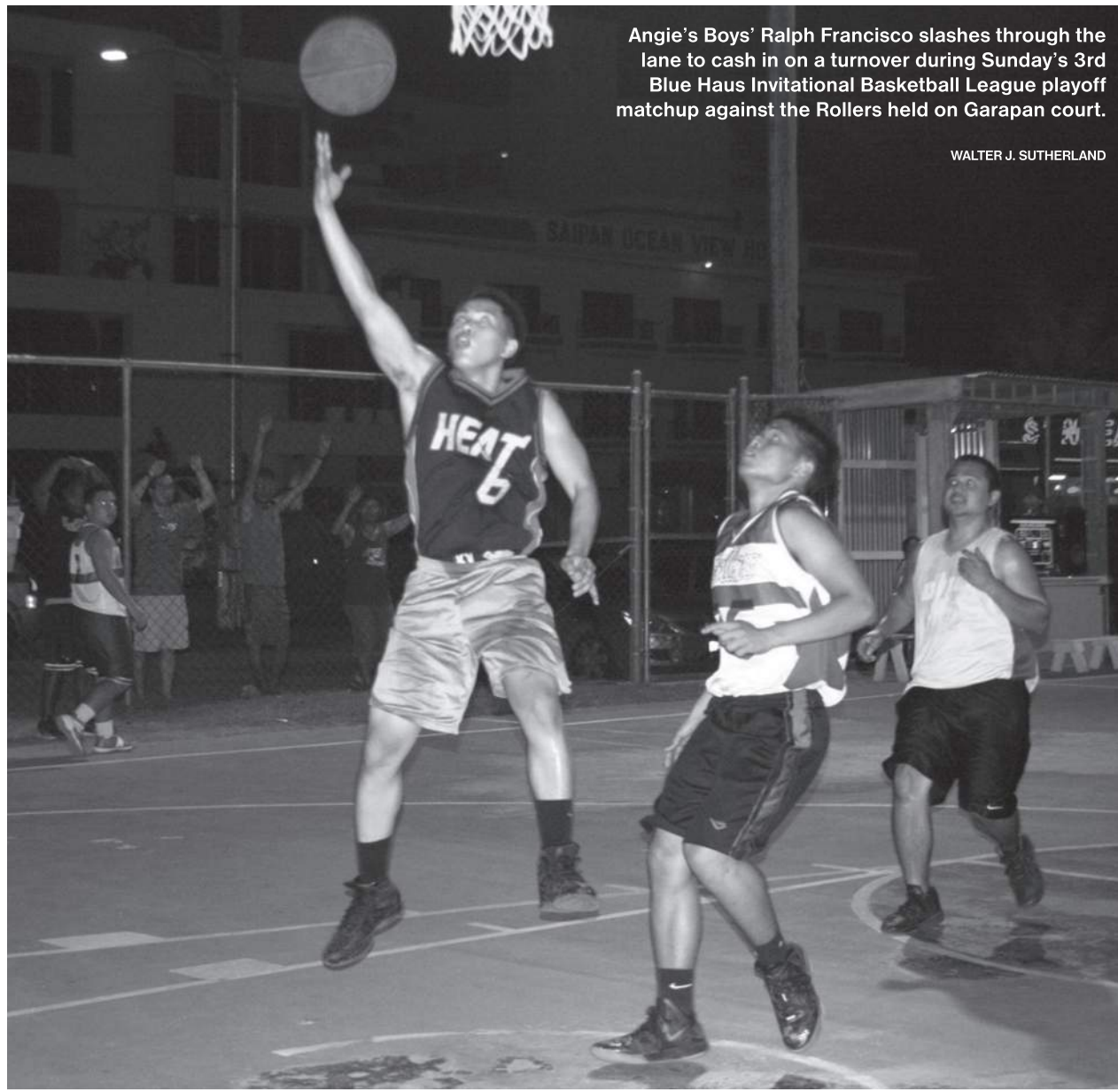
In Sunday's opener, Insider got off to a strong start and assumed control, 20-12, in the opening 10 minutes with good ball movement.

Kevin Deleon then scattered 8 points in the second quarter while Abelarda Sacramento capped the Insider onslaught with a 3-pointer as the team entered half-time with a stout 42-24 margin.

Cargo Express was unable to make up any ground in the third frame as Insider's bench players came in well rested to thwart their comeback attempt and the latter had little trouble securing the win in the final stanza.

Cargo Express' Sonny Lerio dropped 18 points in a last-ditch rally cry, which included four long-range strikes. However, his effort only earned him top scoring honors with 28 points, while Insider's Jhoy Dayrit lead a well-balanced attack with 16.

In the late match, Hite busted four



Angie's Boys' Ralph Francisco slashes through the lane to cash in on a turnover during Sunday's 3rd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League playoff matchup against the Rollers held on Garapan court.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

3-pointers in the first quarter to spark a 27-15 lead and maintained a double-digit advantage at the half, 46-36, thanks largely to a dozen markers by Walter Mendez in the second quarter.

Andy Mortos carried Yuman through the first half with 17 points complemented by 12 in support from Bryan Ajoste.

Yuman regrouped at the break and surmounted its deficit and clung to a 63-62 lead heading into the final canto after a 15-point uproar by Ajoste who canned seven free throws in the third quarter.

Yuman then called on its spot shooters to bring it home.

Ajoste topped the field with 30 points, while Hite's Mendez turned in 25 on the short end.

First Game

Insider 78 – Dayrit 16, Deleon 14, V Iglesias 13, Loste 8, Montano 8, Rivera 8, Wood 4, Sacramento 3, Mateo 2, Jose 2.

Cargo Express 70 – Lerio 28, Santos 13, Mungcal 13, Tabora 8, Yalung 6, Tolentino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 42-24, 57-43, 78-70.

Second Game

Yuman Construction 82 – Ajoste 30, Mortos 27, Bahillo 12, Serrano 8, Galvez 5.

Hite 79 – Mendez 25, Tenorio 15, Vertudez 14, Chan 11, Salvosa 6, Bautista 4, Lauron 2, Villagomez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-27, 36-46, 63-62, 82-79.

MGA February Ace tourney this Sunday at COP



The newly chartered Marianas Golf Association is holding its February Ace

of the Month tournament this Sunday at the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Show time is set for 9am with

a 10am tee off.

MGA president Carl Hocog's invitation for any interested golfers to come out and join them is still open. MGA boasts of 20 registered members.

The MGA requires a \$50 annual fee, which is due paid in full by its upcoming March Ace

of the Month event.

Aside from COP, MGA will also be utilize the Marianas Country Club, Kingfisher Golf Links, and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort as future venues.

The red, white, and blue tees will be utilized depending on the players' handicap. Further

details in regards to net scoring will be discussed after the conclusion of Sunday's round.

For more information, contact MGA vice president J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, MGA secretary Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263; or email marianasgolf670@gmail.com. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

NETTERS

From Page 28

coaches Elias Rangamar (2004 and 2008) and Tony Rogolifo (2010 and 2011).

In the NPQ in June, Race's wards faced Palau, Guam, and Federated States of Micronesia players and nearly swept the competition, winning five of the six titles at stake in the annual tournament. It was a complete domination for the Commonwealth bets, as 17 of its players made it to the Top 4, 10 claimed slots on the North Pacific Team, several players recorded perfect marks in the tournament, and the CNMI posted the highest win percentage in the field.

The CNMI bets went on to continue the show in Fiji in August, besting 17 other island-nations that joined the POJC. The Commonwealth had the most semifinalists in the regional tournament with five of its players advancing to the Final Four. Powerhouse Fiji had only three semifinalists. The CNMI also won one singles crown and two

doubles titles.

Flawless Lopez

Lopez was part of the CNMI Junior Team that played in the NPQ and POJC and her impressive performance in both tournaments earned her the 2012 NMASA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year plum.

Lopez clinched the girls U15 title in the NPQ and had a flawless record in the qualifier in Guam. The Marianas High School student went on to finish No. 1 in the Pacific after ruling both the singles and doubles events in the POJC.

To cap her awesome 2012 performance, Lopez stunned the CNMI's No. 1 U18 player Thea Minor in the Tan Holdings Classic in November, handing the latter her first loss in a local tournament in about four years.

NMIVA's pride

Sharing the top student honors with Lopez was McCullough-Stearns, who earned NMASA members' nods for leading Saipan International School to title wins both in the Coalition

of Private School Sports Association and Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization volleyball leagues.

McCullough-Stearns and his SIS Geckos avenged their 2011 loss to Grace Christian Academy, winning the 2012 finale, and the high-leaping player went on to win the MVP award in the league. He also took the prestigious individual award in the MISO league after lifting SIS to another title win incidentally over GCA again.

In local events, McCullough-Stearns topped several tournaments, earning him two NMASA monthly awards.

McCullough-Stearns and other Saipan players managed to participate in interscholastic and regular competitions in 2012 through the efforts of NMIVA, which is led by Peterka.

The NMIVA president helped organize competitions, referees and coaches clinic, youth players clinic, and other events to ensure the continued development of volleyball in the CNMI and her tireless work earned her the Sports Administrator of the

Year award.

Peterka is only the second recipient of the elite award, joining inaugural winner Rose Igitol of baseball.

Athletes of the Year

Montgomery and Rangamar were named Athletes of the Year for their outstanding performance in separate tournaments.

Montgomery, who was off-island and was not able to attend last night's ceremony, was selected for winning two titles in the 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships. He teamed up with Tim Quan in beating Christian Miller and Bobby Cruz in the doubles finals and then won the singles crown against the latter.

Rangamar, who also missed the awards night, was honored for resetting a CNMI national record in javelin throw during the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 in Australia. She was also part of the first CNMI relay team that competed in the regional event and helped the squad win the bronze medal in the 4x100m race.

ALL-TIME

From Page 28

ing him a marked man in every game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The 58-year-old Celis also joined slow- and fast-pitch softball leagues for three decades and notched various individual awards, including MVP citations.

"He is of the greatest baseball and softball players in the CNMI. He is respected in the CNMI sports community as an athlete, coach, and an official of both baseball and softball. His presence in any athletic contest was a sight to behold and he always makes athletes around him better," NMASA Hall of Fame Special Committee chair Dr. Kurt Barnes said in his letter of nomination for Celis.

LD PRIME

From Page 28

LD Prime 71 – K. Quemado 26, Fleming 10, Esteves 9, S. Quemado 6, Aldan 5, Pena 4,

Jugos 2, Lapuz 2.

Gualo Rai 69 – Ibanez 25, Cayading 12, Galulu 11, Fidelino 7, Deleon Guerrero 6, Dayrit 3.

Scoring by quarters: 17-18, 31-38, 58-54, 71-69.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	32	17	.653	—
Brooklyn	30	22	.577	3 1/2
Boston	27	24	.529	6
Philadelphia	22	28	.440	10 1/2
Toronto	20	32	.385	13 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	35	14	.714	—
Atlanta	28	22	.560	7 1/2
Washington	15	35	.300	20 1/2
Orlando	15	36	.294	21
Charlotte	12	39	.235	24

Central Division

Indiana	31	21	.596	—
Chicago	30	21	.588	1/2
Milwaukee	25	25	.500	5
Detroit	20	33	.377	11 1/2
Cleveland	16	36	.308	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	41	12	.774	—
Memphis	33	18	.647	7
Houston	29	25	.537	12 1/2
Dallas	22	29	.431	18
New Orleans	18	34	.346	22 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	13	.750	—
Denver	33	20	.623	6 1/2
Utah	29	24	.547	10 1/2
Portland	25	27	.481	14
Minnesota	19	30	.388	18 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	37	17	.685	—
Golden State	30	22	.577	6
L.A. Lakers	25	28	.472	11 1/2
Sacramento	19	34	.358	17 1/2
Phoenix	17	36	.321	19 1/2

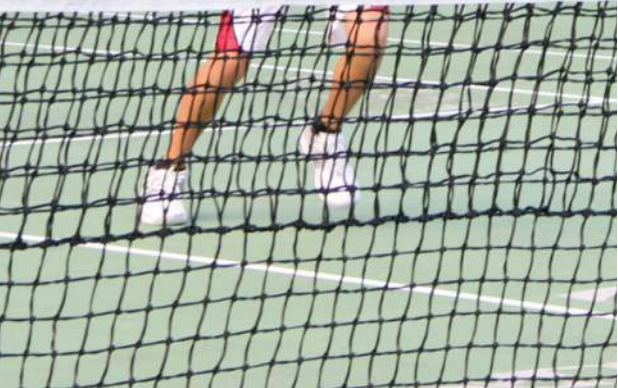
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Vincent Tudela gets ready to serve.



Michael Ren hits the ball near the net.



Mondo Taniguchi jumps for a return.



Daniel Parks goes for a volley near the net during his and Vincent Tudela's mixed-up doubles game against Sakiko Eda and Mondo Taniguchi during the first week of competition in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Catherine Atalig receives Zena Demapan's serve, while teammate Dylan Ackerman looks on.



Kinumi Taniguchi, left, gets a hi-five from teammate Michael Ren after scoring an ace.



Robbie Schorr goes for a baseline return.



Luther Lizama serves during his and Colin Ramsey's mixed-up doubles game against Steve Nutting and Robbie Schorr.



Dylan Ackerman prepares to serve against Conatsu Kaga and Zena Demapan.



Melody Johnson, right, gives the ball to doubles partner Ken Song as it was their turn to serve.



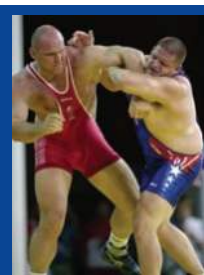
**LeBron sets
mark, Heat top
Blazers, 117-104**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Body slam
for wrestling:
Sport cut from
Olympics**

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28 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Netters, spikers lead 2012 awardees

From left, Mikayla Lopez, Jeff Race, Laurie Peterka, and Clay McCullough-Stearns pose with their trophies after the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held at Kanoa Resort last night.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association shared the limelight in the 2012 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet as their athletes and officials were honored in the awards ceremony last night at the Kanoa Resort.

Tennis collected three coveted awards, while volleyball took home two, and athletics completed the 2012 individual honor roll.

Delivering three awards for NMITA were Jeff Race, Mikayla Lopez, and Todd Montgomery, while Laurie Peterka and Clay McCullough-Stearns won for NMIVA. Lia Rangamar was the lone athlete from Northern Marianas Athletics to make it on the elite list.



Second award for Race

Race was named Coach of the Year for steering the CNMI Junior Tennis Team to a successful campaign both in the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam and in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. It was Race's second Coach of the Year award. He won his first in 2007 and with his twin awards, he now ties the record of

See NETTERS on Page 26

All-time great Celis enshrined in Hall of Fame



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee Reno Celis smiles as he poses for the camera during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held at Kanoa Resort last night.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Reno Celis was inducted to the 2013 class of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last night during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held at the Kanoa Resort.

Celis joined the prestigious group of Commonwealth athletes and officials for his consistent and outstanding plays in both baseball and softball for decades.

The Sablan Termites shortstop won was the Saipan Major League MVP in 1988 and 1989, the same years he led the league in batting average (.535 in 1988 and .465 in 1989) and triples, homers scored, and RBIs.

Celis, who also competed in track and field events with Mt. Carmel School in the 1960s, played in the SML for 16 seasons and has been competing in baseball tournaments for more than 30 years. In the 1980s and early 1990 SML seasons, he made it to the Top 10 of almost all statistical race, mak-

See ALL-TIME on Page 26

LD Prime ends skid in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Finally, LD Prime barged into the win column in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League, following a 71-69 triumph over Gualo Rai last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Kenneth Quemado and Chris Esteves knocked in important free throws in the homestretch to give LD Prime its first win in six games.

Quemado had a split in his earlier trip to the stripe for LD Prime's 69-66 lead, while Esteves also went 1-for-2 at the line in the ensuing play for their four-point advantage, less than 20 seconds left on the clock.

Down, but definitely out, Gualo Rai threatened LD Prime when Justin Cayading converted a turn-around triple and sliced the deficit to one, 69-70.

Gualo Rai then gave up a quick foul to stop the clock and send Quemado to the 15-foot line anew, 1.9 seconds left in the game. Quemado made the first charity and planned to miss the second one to melt



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

LD Prime's Lester Lapuz, left, dribbles out of the defense of Gualo Rai's Marlo Ibanez during the second quarter of their game in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

the clock in the rebound play. However, he shot an airball, giving Gualo Rai the outright possession and a chance to either tie the game with a two-pointer or win in with a triple.

Gualo Rai sued for time before the inbound and when the game resumed, Cayading managed to pull up for a triple from the left corner, but overshot his mark, allowing LD Prime to take the close win this time.

LD Prime dropped several down-to-the-wire games and seemed headed for its sixth straight loss when it fell behind, 33-45, midway in the third period. However, a big 16-2 run in the next four minutes swung momentum of the game to LD Prime, which eventually closed the third with a 58-54 advantage. Quemado led the charge, drilling 13 points in the third canto off his short jumpers.

Quemado continued to can medium-ranged shots in the fourth to help LD Prime keep the lead and then foiled Gualo Rai's comeback bids with his two charities in the closing seconds of the game. He finished with a game-high 26 points.

With the loss, Gualo Rai fell to an even 2-2 record, as it played sans top gunner Prince Factor. Marlo Ibanez paced Gualo Rai with his 25 markers.

See LD PRIME on Page 26